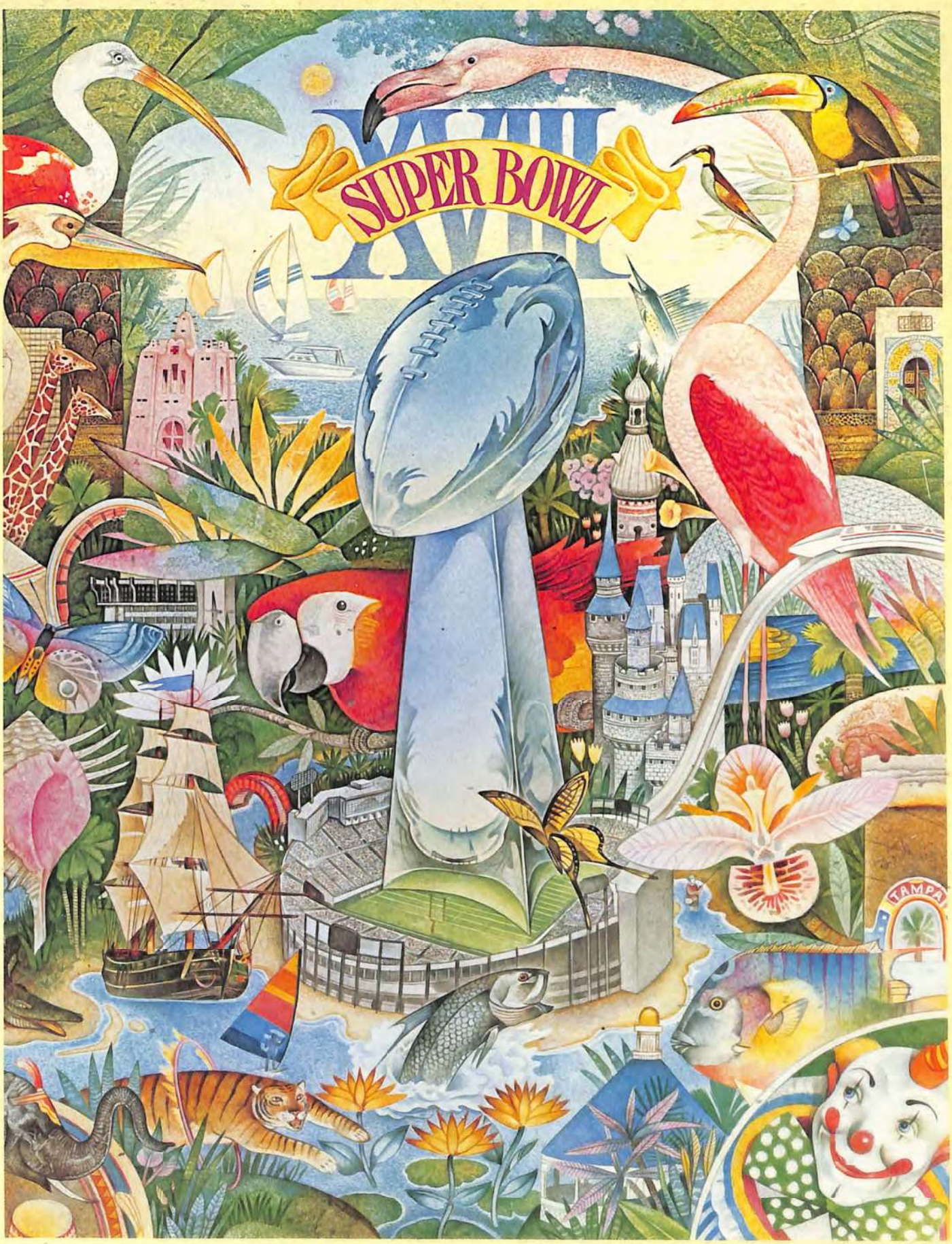

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS VS. WASHINGTON REDSKINS

AFC VS. NFC FOR THE NFL CHAMPIONSHIP AND THE VINCE LOMBARDI TROPHY

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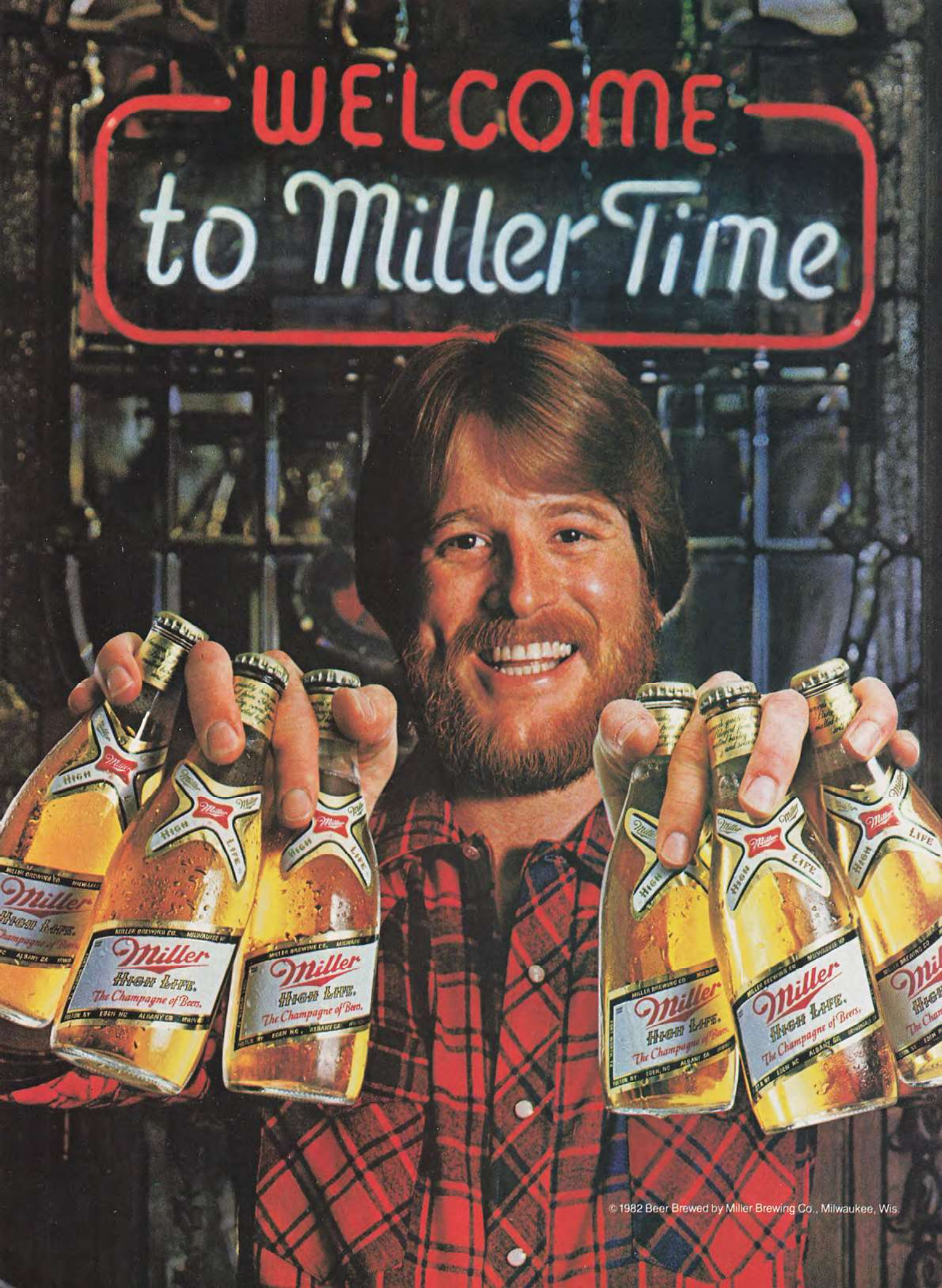
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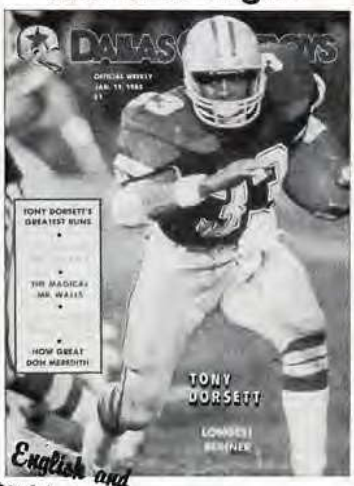

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On the Inside

In a season in which the National Football League celebrates the anniversaries of some of its greatest moments, it also must mourn the loss of one of its greatest men, George Halas, who passed away at the age of 88 on October 31.

In 1920, Halas represented the Decatur Staleys at the organizational meeting in Canton, Ohio, at which the NFL was founded. The next year, Halas added owner to his title of player-coach, and moved the Staleys to Chicago, where they became the Bears.

Halas coached the Bears, with several brief interruptions, through the 1967 season. During those years, Halas's teams won eight NFL championships and appeared in the championship game four more times. In the 1940 championship game, the Bears defeated the Washington Redskins 73-0, the most lopsided score in NFL history. Halas finished his coaching career with the most victories in NFL history, and a 319-148-31 regular season record.

The last championship for Halas and the Bears was 20 years ago. The Bears entered the 1963 playoffs with the best record in pro football (11-1-2). A Halas reclamation project, quarterback Bill Wade, scored two touchdowns and the Bears defeated the New York Giants 14-10. A triple tribute to Halas and his legacy, by Halas's grandson and Bears public relations director Pat McCaskey, Chicago assistant general manager and "Insight" columnist Bill McGrane, and *Chicago Sun-Times* sportswriter Ray Sons, begins on page 33.

A legend in his own time—and Halas's—was Bronko Nagurski, who retired from the Bears 40 years ago. Nagurski is making a rare appearance here in Tampa to toss the coin before today's game. *PRO!* magazine editor John Wiebusch's depiction of the Nagurski saga begins on page 47.

There were other significant anniversaries for the NFL in 1983.

Ten years ago, in 1973, O.J. Simpson of the Buffalo Bills became the first football player, college or pro, to run for 2,000 yards in a season. Simpson had three 200-yard games that year, including a then-record 250 yards against the New England Patriots and a 200-yard performance against the New York Jets in the season finale, to finish with 2,003 yards.

Five years ago, the Dallas Cowboys and Pittsburgh Steelers met in Game XIII, the first Super Bowl rematch. The Steelers (who had beaten Dallas 21-17 in Game X) built a big lead, held off a late Dallas comeback, and won the highest scoring Super Bowl 35-31, to become the first team to capture three Super Bowl titles.

The Steelers' success inspired some sincere flattery, when a number of other NFL teams began following Pittsburgh's defensive game plans and formations. These and other game trends started by Super Bowl champions are explored by *Chicago Sun-Times* writer Kevin Lamb, beginning on page 61.

Ten years before Super Bowl XIII, or 15 years and two weeks ago, one of the most significant games in NFL history was played. In Super Bowl III, Joe Namath, Matt Snell, George Sauer, and the rest of the New York Jets recorded perhaps the biggest upset in pro football history. The AFL champion Jets entered their game with the NFL champion Baltimore Colts as three touchdown underdogs, yet walked away as 16-7 victors. The win signalled to the world of pro football that the AFL had at last achieved parity with the older league, with which it would merge in 1970.

While Super Bowl III was called the greatest upset of all time, a game 10 years previous is frequently referred to as the "greatest game ever played." And the 1983 season marked the silver anniversary of that contest, the 1958 NFL Championship Game between the Baltimore Colts and the New York Giants. The Colts, behind the passing and play-calling of Johnny Unitas, marched 80 yards to score in overtime and win the game 23-17. A celebration and review of that game, by Larry Eldridge, Jr., begins on page 70.

The 1958 championship game also serves as the gateway to a new book, *America's Game*, a retrospective of the NFL's past 25 years. *America's Game*, which was compiled, written, and edited by the staff of the Creative Services Division of NFL Properties, will be published next fall by New American Library. ■

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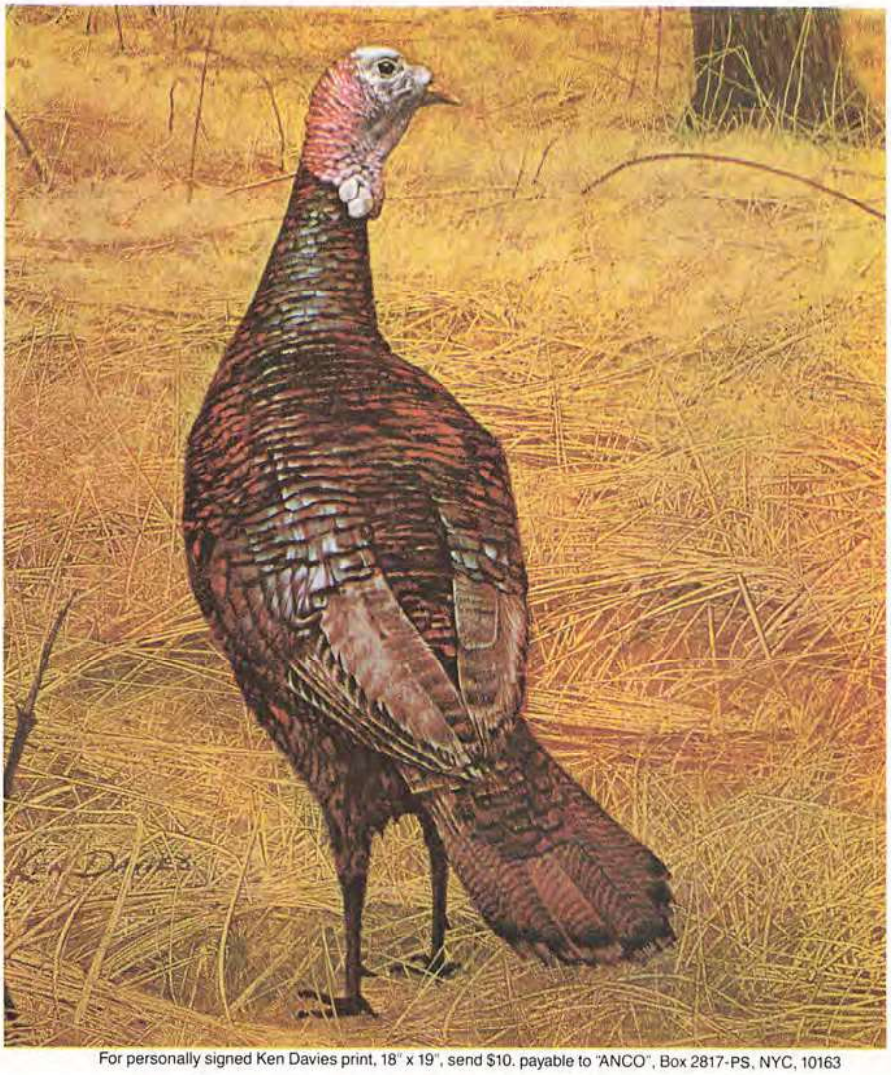

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At stake—The National Football League championship and the Vince Lombardi Trophy.
Participants—The champions of the American Football Conference (AFC) and the National Football Conference (NFC) of the NFL.
Date—Sunday, January 22, 1984.
Starting time—4:30 P.M. E.S.T.

Hugh Jones

Site—Tampa Stadium, Tampa, Florida (above).
Capacity—72,886.
Playing surface—Grass.
Players' shares—$36,000 to each member of the winning team and $18,000 to each member of the losing team; in excess of $2.6 million total for the personnel of the competing clubs.
Players' uniforms—The AFC champion will be the home team and use the west bench. The NFC champion will be the visiting team and use the east bench. The AFC champion, as home team, will have the choice of wearing colored or white jerseys.
Television—CBS.
Radio—CBS.
Officials—There will be seven officials—referee, umpire, line judge, head linesman, back judge, side judge, and field judge—and two alternates.
Ball—A Wilson football is used in all NFL games.
Official time—The scoreboard clock will be official.
Sudden death—If the game is tied at the end of the regulation 60 minutes, it will continue in sudden death overtime. The team scoring first—by safety, field goal, or touchdown—will win. NFL preseason and regular season games have a maximum of one 15-minute overtime period, but in postseason games, play continues by 15-minute periods, with two-minute intermissions, until there is a winner.
Trophy—The winning team receives permanent possession of the Vince Lombardi Trophy, a sterling silver trophy created by Tiffany & Company.
Attendance history—1,400,211 persons have attended the first 17 Super Bowls. The largest crowd was 103,985 at Super Bowl XIV, Pittsburgh Steelers versus Los Angeles Rams, in the Rose Bowl.
Most valuable players—Super Bowls I and II—Green Bay Packers quarterback Bart Starr; Super Bowl III—New York Jets quarterback Joe Namath; Super Bowl IV—Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Len Dawson; Super Bowl V—Dallas Cowboys linebacker Chuck Howley; Super Bowl VI—Dallas Cowboys quarterback Roger Staubach; Super Bowl VII—Miami Dolphins safety Jake Scott; Super Bowl VIII—Miami Dolphins running back Larry Csonka; Super Bowl IX—Pittsburgh Steelers running back Franco Harris; Super Bowl X—Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Lynn Swann; Super Bowl XI—Oakland Raiders wide receiver Fred Biletnikoff; Super Bowl XII—Dallas Cowboys defensive end Harvey Martin and defensive tackle Randy White; Super Bowls XIII and XIV—Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Terry Bradshaw; Super Bowl XV—Oakland Raiders quarterback Jim Plunkett; Super Bowl XVI—San Francisco 49ers quarterback Joe Montana; Super Bowl XVII—Washington Redskins running back John Riggins.
Future sites—Super Bowl XIX will be played January 20, 1985 at Stanford Stadium in Palo Alto, California. Super Bowl XX will be played January 26, 1986 at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans. ■

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Elijah Pitts scores last touchdown in Game I.

SUPER BOWL I, JANUARY 15, 1967

Green Bay 35, Kansas City 10, at Los Angeles, 61,946—The Packers and the Chiefs met in the "First AFL-NFL World Championship Game"; official use of the term "Super Bowl" was still two years away. Bart Starr threw for 250 yards and two touchdowns. Max McGee had seven receptions for 138 yards and a pair of scores. Behind Willie Wood's interception and the running of Elijah Pitts, the Packers broke open a close game with two third-quarter touchdowns. Starr was named the game's most valuable player.

SUPER BOWL II, JANUARY 14, 1968

Green Bay 33, Oakland 14, at Miami, 75,546—Bart Starr passed for 202 yards, including a 62-yard touchdown to Boyd Dowler, and earned his second Super Bowl most valuable player award as he led the Packers to their second straight world title. The Packers' Don Chandler kicked four field goals and Herb Adderley offset the passing show of the Raiders' Daryle Lamonica (15 of 34 for 208 yards) by returning an interception 60 yards for Green Bay's last score. The game marked the end of Vince Lombardi's career as head coach of the Packers.

SUPER BOWL III, JANUARY 12, 1969

N.Y. Jets 16, Baltimore 7, at Miami, 75,389—At a sports dinner at Miami Springs Villa the Thursday night before the game, Jets quarterback Joe Namath said, "We're going to win Sunday. I'll guarantee you." The Jets made good on Namath's promise. Their defense shackled the Colts' offense, forcing five turnovers, including four interceptions, and fullback Matt Snell powered his way for 121 yards and the Jets' only touchdown. For his part, Namath completed 17 of 28 passes for 206 yards and was named the game's most valuable player.

SUPER BOWL IV, JANUARY 11, 1970

Kansas City 23, Minnesota 7, at New Orleans, 80,562—Kansas City, sparked by Len Dawson's superb quarterbacking, Jan Stenerud's kicking, and an impenetrable defense, built a 16-0 halftime lead in its victory over Minnesota that evened the Super Bowl series at two victories each for the NFL and AFL. Dawson, the fourth consecutive quarterback to be chosen the game's most valuable player, completed 12 of 17 passes for 142 yards, one a 46-yard scoring pass to Otis Taylor. The Chiefs' defense held the Vikings to only 67 yards rushing and intercepted three passes.

SUPER BOWL V, JANUARY 17, 1971

Baltimore 16, Dallas 13, at Miami, 79,204—The NFL realigned for the 1970 season, and Baltimore, representing the American Football Conference, defeated the National Football Conference's Dallas Cowboys on a 32-yard field goal by Jim O'Brien with five seconds remaining in the game. The field goal was set up by an interception by Baltimore linebacker Mike Curtis. In a game marred by 11 turnovers, Dallas linebacker Chuck Howley became the first defensive player (and still the only member of the losing team) to win the most valuable player award.

SUPER BOWL VI, JANUARY 16, 1972

Dallas 24, Miami 3, at New Orleans, 81,023—Dallas had been one of the strongest teams in the NFL for five years, losing to Green Bay in the 1966 and 1967 NFL Championship Games and to Baltimore in Super Bowl V. The Cowboys finally won the big one, as they dominated the young Miami Dolphins in Game VI. Roger Staubach, the game's most valuable player, completed 12 of 19 passes for 119 yards and two touchdowns, and Duane Thomas and Walt Garrison combined for 169 yards rushing. The Cowboys' defense limited Miami to 185 total yards.

SUPER BOWL VII, JANUARY 14, 1973

Miami 14, Washington 7, at Los Angeles, 90,182—The Dolphins became the first team in NFL history to complete a perfect season (including the regular season and playoffs), going 17-0. Behind a powerhouse rushing attack, Miami built up a 14-0 halftime lead and held the Redskins scoreless until the last three minutes of the game. Miami safety Jake Scott had two interceptions and was named the game's most valuable player.

Dick Raphael

Miami's offense was awesome in Game VII.

SUPER BOWL VIII, JANUARY 13, 1974

Miami 24, Minnesota 7, at Houston, 71,882—The defending champion Dolphins controlled the game from the outset. They scored the first two times they had the ball and coasted to victory. Miami became the first team since Green Bay to win consecutive Super Bowls, and set a record with its third straight appearance. Larry Csonka rushed 33 times for a record 145 yards and two touchdowns to win the most valuable player award.

SUPER BOWL IX, JANUARY 12, 1975

Pittsburgh 16, Minnesota 6, at New Orleans, 80,997—The Steelers ended a 42-year wait for a championship by totally shutting down the Vikings with a record-setting defensive performance. The Steel Curtain defense limited Minnesota to 17 yards rushing on 21 carries, and intercepted Fran Tarkenton three times. Pittsburgh's Franco Harris set Super Bowl records by rushing 34 times for 158 yards and earned the most valuable player award. The Steelers led 2-0 at halftime on a safety scored when Dwight White tackled Tarkenton in the end zone.

SUPER BOWL X, JANUARY 18, 1976

Pittsburgh 21, Dallas 17, at Miami, 80,187—Dallas became the first wild card team to play in the Super Bowl, but it was the Steelers, not the Cowboys, who became the third team to win two Super Bowls. Terry Bradshaw threw a 64-yard touchdown pass to Lynn Swann with three minutes left for the deciding points. Swann caught four passes for a record 161 yards and was named most valuable player. The Steelers' defense sacked Roger Staubach seven times and intercepted three of his passes.

Vernon Biever

Hard-hitting defenses characterized Game X.

SUPER BOWL XI, JANUARY 9, 1977

Oakland 32, Minnesota 14, at Pasadena, 103,438—Behind the rushing of Clarence Davis (137 yards), the passing of Ken Stabler (12 of 19 for 180 yards), and the clutch receptions of Fred Biletnikoff (four for 79 yards), the Raiders set Super Bowl records for most yards total offense (429) and most rushing yards (266). Biletnikoff was the game's most valuable player. The Vikings' loss was their fourth without a victory in the Super Bowl.

SUPER BOWL XII, JANUARY 15, 1978

Dallas 27, Denver 10, at New Orleans, 75,583—Dallas's Doomsday II defense overshadowed Denver's more publicized Orange Crush to lead the Cowboys to their second world title. Dallas forced eight turnovers, sacked Denver quarterbacks Craig Morton and Norris Weese four times, and limited the Broncos to 156 net yards. End Harvey Martin and tackle Randy White, the right side of the Dallas defensive line, shared the most valuable player award. Roger Staubach completed 17 of 25 passes for 183 yards and one touchdown to lead the Cowboys' offense, which netted 325 yards overall.

SUPER BOWL XIII, JANUARY 21, 1979

Pittsburgh 35, Dallas 31, at Miami, 79,484—Pittsburgh became the first team—and Chuck Noll the first head coach—to win three Super Bowls as the Steelers held off the Cowboys in the highest scoring game in Super Bowl history. The game also was the first Super Bowl rematch. Terry Bradshaw, who

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was voted the game's most valuable player, threw for 318 yards and four touchdowns to outperform Roger Staubach, who passed for 228 yards and three scores. Dallas scored twice in the final two-and-one-half minutes of the game, but Rocky Bleier recovered an onside kick with 17 seconds left to seal the Steelers' victory.

SUPER BOWL XIV, JANUARY 20, 1980

Pittsburgh 31, Los Angeles 19, at Pasadena, 103,985—Terry Bradshaw threw for 309 yards and two touchdowns, gained his second straight most valuable player award, and led a fourth-quarter rally as the Steelers came from behind to win an unprecedented fourth Super Bowl title before a record crowd. The Rams led 19-17 in the fourth quarter of the seesaw game, mainly on the passing of Vince Ferragamo, who threw for 212 yards.

SUPER BOWL XV, JANUARY 25, 1981

Oakland 27, Philadelphia 10, at New Orleans, 76,135—The Raiders' defense, led by linebacker Rod Martin's three interceptions, controlled the tempo of the game and set up 10 points to lead Oakland to victory. Jim Plunkett threw for 261 yards and three touchdowns—one on a Super Bowl record 80-yard pass to Kenny King—to earn most valuable player honors. After the Raiders scored twice in the first quarter, the Eagles never were able to get back into the game.

Manny Rubio

Martin had three interceptions in Game XV.

SUPER BOWL XVI, JANUARY 24, 1982

San Francisco 26, Cincinnati 21, at Pontiac, 81,270—The San Francisco defense came up with big plays throughout the game, including a four-play goal-line stand in the third quarter, to stave off the Bengals' explosive offense. The 49ers built a 20-0 halftime lead before quarterback Ken Anderson brought the Bengals back in the second half. Anderson set a Super Bowl record by completing 25 passes (for 300 yards and two touchdowns). The Bengals outgained the 49ers 356 yards to 275. San Francisco quarterback Joe Montana earned most valuable player honors after completing 14 of 22 passes for 157 yards and one touchdown. He also ran for a score.

SUPER BOWL XVII, JANUARY 30, 1983

Washington 27, Miami 17, at Pasadena, 103,667—Washington used the running of most valuable player John Riggins to overpower Miami. Riggins, who rushed for a Super Bowl record 166 yards on 38 carries, scored the game-winning touchdown on a fourth-down, 43-yard run with 10 minutes left in the game. The Redskins' defense straitjacketed the Dolphins in the second half, allowing only 34 rushing yards and no passing yards. Washington dominated Miami in total yardage, 400 to 176. ■

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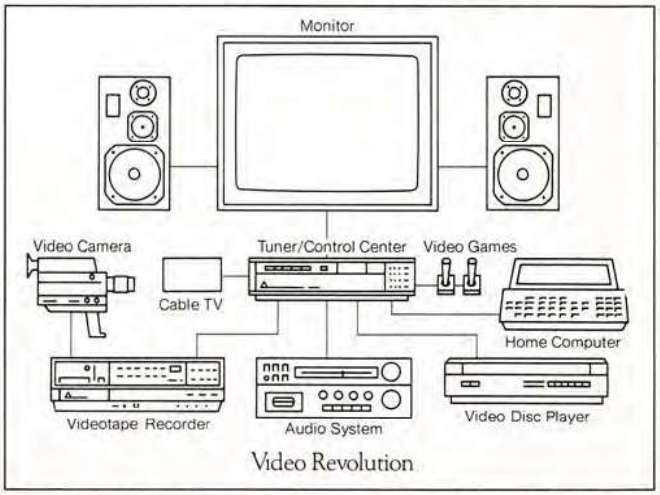

Video Revolution

These days, many new and wondrous things are appearing on America's TV sets.

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All of which has caused many new and wondrous things to appear around, next-to, and in-back-of America's TV sets.

As *Popular Science* (June, 1982) put it:

"If you ever added a video game to your TV set, you know the tangle of wires and hanging switch boxes that can result. Now, add a VCR, disc player, or perhaps a home computer, and you may have to call NASA for a consultation."

Which is one reason to seriously consider the remarkable new Mitsubishi component TV system.

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BY TED BROCK AND JIM CAMPBELL

Super Bowl Trivia

Rosy Rememberances

The 1983 season was notable for its gains—and its losses, particularly the deaths of two NFL pioneers, George Halas and Claude (Buddy) Young. Halas, of course, was one of the league's founding fathers. Young was one of pro football's key figures in race relations, first as a player (AAFC New York Yankees, 1947-49; NFL New York Yankees, 1950-51; Dallas Texans, 1952; and Baltimore Colts, 1953-55), and later as NFL Director of Player Relations (1966-1983).

There was, however, one bit of trivia linking the two men's experience. Both were named most valuable player of the Rose Bowl game. Halas won the honor by helping lead the Great Lakes Navy team to a 19-0 victory over the Mare Island Marines in 1919. Young was most valuable player in the 1947 game, leading Illinois' 45-14 romp over UCLA.

Frank Rippon

Claude (Buddy) Young

Say That Again?

Washington Redskins placekicker **Mark Moseley,** on his Super Bowl XVII ring: "I heard about this Super Bowl ring once that was being sold down in a pawnshop in Texas. I can't understand how something like that happens because in our career, this ring represents the top. You can't do any better than this. I'll tell you, this ring may end up in a gutter, but if it does, I'll still be wearing it."

Former Kansas City Chiefs quarterback **Len Dawson,** reflecting on his two Super Bowl experiences (Games I and IV): "I had a taste of both winning and losing the Super Bowl, and believe me, winning was better."

Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver **Cris Collinsworth,** commenting prior to Super Bowl XVI on his special pregame preparations: "I must have promised at least forty girls a wink. I guess I can take care of all of them with just one wink."

Fifty-Fifty Proposition

Over the course of 17 Super Bowls, the adage "Whoever wins the toss of the coin wins the game" has yet to surface, and probably never will. Only eight Super Bowl games have gone to the coin toss winner (I, III, VII, VIII, IX, XI, XII, and XVI).

David Boss

Steelers top Vikings, SB IX

What's more, the two teams with four Super Bowl appearances to their credit might argue for a reversal of the above adage. The Pittsburgh Steelers, four-time winners, have won only one coin flip. The Minnesota Vikings, four-time losers, have lost only one coin flip.

So watch Bronko Nagurski as he lets the coin fly. Follow its flight, then focus on its landing. Heads or tails? Kick off or receive? Go with the wind or...? Anybody got another coin?

Meaningful Games

Had enough hoopla? One way to measure whether the festivities of Super Week have got out of hand is to try remembering the name of last year's champion. Hint: The team represents the nation's capital.

There. Not bad. Now let's get to the important stuff. How many of the Washington Redskins who shared in the 27-17 victory in Super Bowl XVII were free agents? An incredible 26, more than any Super Bowl champion. Easy one, no? Now try this: What was remarkable about the Redskins' 1982 preseason record? The Redskins were 0-4, the first team to go winless in the preseason and win the Super Bowl. In fact, Washington was only the second team in Super Bowl history to finish the preseason below .500 and win the NFL title that year. The first was the Pittsburgh Steelers team that won Super Bowl X after having posted a 3-4 record during the previous preseason.

Peter Read Miller

Redskins defeat Dolphins, SB XVII

Class Clown

By now, Super Bowl III must have captured an insurmountable lead in the Super Bowl folklore division, what with tales of the New York Jets' upset victory over the Baltimore Colts filling a small volume of anecdotes. Here's one, though, that seems to have remained relatively obscure.

Fullback Matt Snell remembers that before the game, the whole Jets team was "a little uptight." Warmups had been completed, and the team had returned to its Orange Bowl locker room for last-minute instructions.

"Coach [Weeb] Ewbank got up for his pregame talk," Snell says. "Halfway through it, he got all flustered and asked the team, 'Oh, no, who should we introduce before the start of the game—the offense or the defense?'

Malcolm Emmons

Matt Snell, SB III powerhouse

"After he said that our tight end Pete Lammons offered a suggestion. He said, 'Coach, why don't you introduce the seniors?' Of course, this cracked the team up and we went out loose and won the game."

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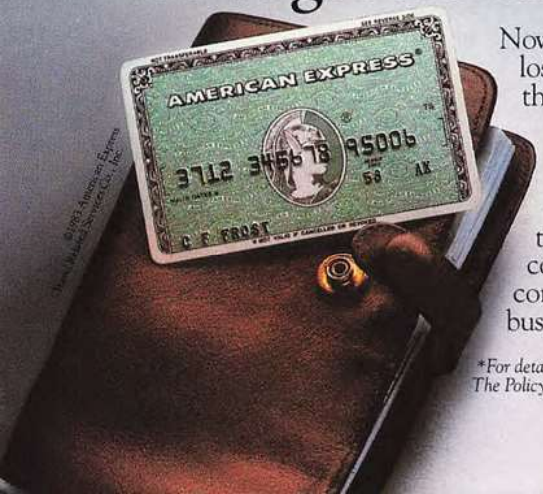

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Insight

The phone rang just as he put his hand on the doorknob.

He'd waited until 11:30. Long enough. The man they picked would have been notified by 11:30.

Still, he made the desk in two long strides and snatched up the receiver.

"Cherokee?"

He almost dropped the telephone.

His name wasn't Cherokee, not most of the time, anyway. Just on Sundays, in the fall. Referees have security code names. His was Cherokee.

"You're our referee," said the man from the NFL office.

He and his wife took a night flight on Thursday, before the game. He stared down absently at moonlit clouds, but what he really saw were the grass-poor, ill-marked fields of nearly 30 years ago, when he'd started out working high school freshman games.

He remembered how important it had seemed then, that he work his way up to junior varsity games.

For him, it made sense...from the start.

His wife, sleeping in the seat next to him, stirred.

A heavy-set guy paused in the aisle, staring at him.

"Hey, Ref," he said.

He smiled and said, "Hi, there."

The traveler grinned. He had a martini in a plastic glass in a large hand.

"Hey, you're goin' out to work the big one, aren't you?"

His smile was just right...the job had made him learn it...but it stopped short of encouraging conversation.

"Nice to see you," said Cherokee, then he opened the book on his lap.

He met his crew for the first time the next morning.

He didn't work regularly with any of them, but he knew all of them because he had been in the league 10 years. His eyes swept the faces.

He loved his fellow officials. To an outsider, he knew that would sound awfully contrived, but he couldn't think of another word for his feeling. He knew how hard they worked at it, because he knew how hard he worked at it.

He loved them for that.

Don Weller

"We're going to be together," he began, "straight on through. No individuals, just the group. From now, until it ends on Sunday...together."

They met three times Friday and twice on Saturday. They went from the basics, reviewing the rules, and double-checking positioning, right down through the most sophisticated situations they might face.

All of them *knew* the answers, it wasn't that...but reviewing was the best way he knew to get into the feeling of the game.

The crew and their wives had dinner Saturday night with the supervisor of officials. The referee didn't eat much... took tiny bites from the sole filet and pushed things around enough to where it looked like he'd eaten.

Over coffee, the supervisor said, "I don't like speeches, but there will be three championship teams on that field tomorrow. You men are our champions, and you belong out there."

When they were alone later, the referee's wife scolded him for not eating.

"I wasn't hungry."

"You nervous?" she asked.

He pulled off a sock and tossed it at the closet.

"Yep."

She frowned. "I mean, really nervous...as in scared?"

"Nope."

He laughed then.

"What's funny?" she asked.

"You," he said. "You're going to the game tomorrow, and you don't even like football."

"So?" she said.

"It's just funny, that's all...this big, huge game. All kinds of people would give their eye-teeth to be there...you'll be there, and you don't like football."

She shrugged, then grinned.

"But I like you," she said.

He was awake until the small, dark, make-you-think-about-yourself hours.

He thought of the time he'd gone to his father's house to tell him he'd been accepted to work in pro football.

His father had been so proud of him.

"You can be the best," he had said. "The best of the best. But you have to work at it."

He'd worked at it.

To him, the biggest thing was that he'd learned to know himself. He knew he would make mistakes, but he also knew he was good at his job. He knew he'd never be satisfied with his performance, but he also knew he did his best. There was satisfaction in that.

He knew teams respected him for that. They didn't always agree with him, but they respected him.

Cherokee got up at 6 A.M. on Sunday, quietly, so as not to wake his wife.

He was in the coffee shop at 6:30.

The rest of the crew was there, waiting for him. ■

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Super Bowl Scene

The seed that became the Super Bowl XVIII sports plum was sewn with a toast in a New York bar nearly 10 years ago.

The toast: "Today a pro football franchise, tomorrow the Super Bowl."

Toasting were Leonard Levy, Joe Zalupski, Chuck Smith, Earl Emmons, Bill Marcum, and this historian of that important pledge.

A witness, a friendly but not very happy witness, was Mike Lynn, now the general manager of the Minnesota Vikings.

Precise location of the toast was the south end of the bar in New York's Drake Hotel Lobby Lounge.

Precise time and date were 8 P.M., April 24, 1974. Precise reason for the toast was to crystalize the moment.

Three hours before, in Suite 404 of the Drake, National Football League Commissioner Pete Rozelle had walked into the crowded room and declared:

"The National Football League today voted to expand to Tampa, Florida, and to at least one other city to be chosen later this year. The teams are to be ready for the 1976 season. The franchises will cost $16 million each."

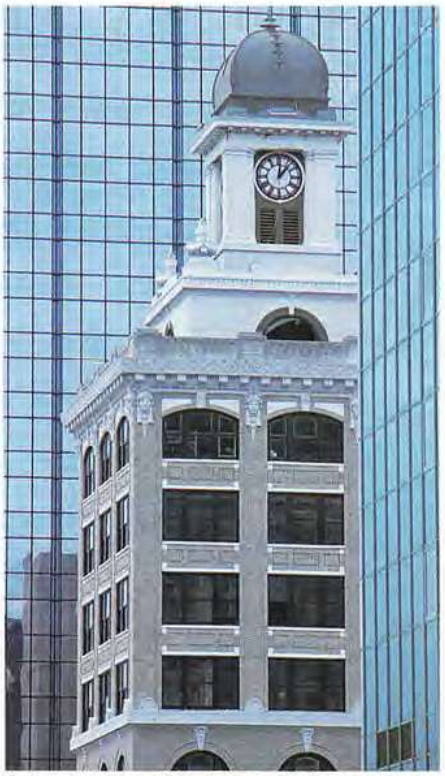
Representatives from Phoenix, Seattle, Memphis, and Honolulu were stunned. Lynn was the head of the Memphis delegation.

Rozelle then walked over to Levy and said, "Welcome to the NFL, sir."

It was an electric and proud moment for that delegation soon to be called the Tampa *Bay* delegation in deference to St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Sarasota, Lakeland, Bradenton, Wauchula, and the other bustling population centers that make up Florida's west coast market.

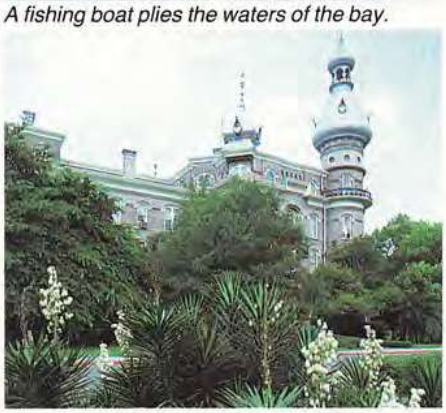
In one stroke, Tampa suddenly was a "Big League" city.

"Sure we were feeling boastful," said Levy, looking back. "We had earned that moment. We were not the favored city. Seattle was. And while Seattle was to be named the tandem entry soon afterwards, it was a coup for our people and for our place that had for so long put its best foot forward. Our deal for the franchise included the requirement that we enlarge Tampa Stadium from 46,000 to 72,000. To us, that fact alone meant we would, in time, be ready to host a Super Bowl."



In Tampa, the old and new artfully coexist.

A fishing boat plies the waters of the bay.



The towers of the University of Tampa.

And so it was to happen seven years later, in Detroit, this time in the Detroit Plaza, on the morning of June 3, 1981. Once more Commissioner Rozelle emerged from a meeting with NFL owners to find another gathering that included a Tampa Bay delegation awaiting him. The owner of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Hugh Culverhouse, and his wife Joy, were beside him.

"Tampa Bay has been selected for Super Bowl XVIII, January 22, 1984," said the Commissioner. Once more cheers went up and once more Levy was among those leading them. He also had chaired the Super Bowl Task Force.

Of course, the fact that Tampa had an NFL team and an enlarged 72,000-seat stadium in a booming area with an agreeable climate never *guaranteed* it getting a Super Bowl.

No one was more aware of this than that knot of Tampa people who had long seen a Super Bowl in the future. Because as the Buccaneers advanced "from worst to first" in the NFC Central in their fledgling seasons, this group, led by Levy and the Tampa Sports Authority, had to constantly press the NFL for Super Bowl consideration.

"Get a big league hotel in downtown Tampa and you've got a shot. That is a necessity," said Don Weiss, the NFL's executive director.

In time, Tampa unveiled not just the Downtown Hyatt Regency, but several other new or enlarged and improved hotels in the vicinity of Tampa International Airport, one of the world's finest facilities. In time, the Super Bowl Task Force Levy headed began once again making all of the owners' meetings. They finally were counseled to make a presentation at the Detroit meeting in June of 1981.

Task force member Bob Cromwell, TSA Chairman Shirley Ryals, the Chamber of Commerce's Ralph Chapman, and Billy Bowles went to work on a presentation. It had to be very professional. Sportscaster Pat Summerall, a Floridian, agreed to handle the narration of the film.

Presentations were to take no more than 15 minutes. As Cromwell was setting up his movie equipment employing three screens in the meeting rooms of

the Detroit Plaza, a delegate from another city arrived to do the same.

"Their chins dropped when they saw our movie," Cromwell said. "They had slides. And when they saw we had Pat Summerall narrating the film, they got really nervous. It was a good sign."

The wait outside the meeting room was laborious for all involved. Then, at last, came the call to arms.

The film was shown. It had plenty of beach scenes. Snow lay on the ground outside the Detroit meeting rooms. Tampa mayor Bob Martinez and Chamber president Don Whittemore made a few remarks. There were questions about room availability at Disney World, 65 miles east on I-4 from Tampa Stadium. Sure there would be rooms there. Disney World was supportive of the push. There were rooms on Clearwater and St. Petersburg beaches, too.

New restaurants were everywhere, joining those about which the owners knew: Bern's, Malio's, Spanish Park, and the Columbia. And yes, there would be luxury box access for visiting owners.

On the way out, the same Mike Lynn who was in dismay in that Drake Hotel bar in New York, back in 1974, whispered, "You got it."

Now the wait really began.

"The wait was longer than I expected," said Levy. Paul Brown of Cincinnati and Jim Finks, then of Chicago, left the meeting with their bags.

"Wonder what went wrong," pondered Levy.

Another came out and gave a thumbs up signal to the group. Joe Robbie of Miami came out and whispered, "Tampa" to a Miami newsman.

Culverhouse came out and gave a Winston Churchillian "V for Victory" sign. He was followed by Rozelle, who formally announced that Tampa Bay would host Super Bowl XVIII.

"Mission accomplished," said Cromwell.

"One mission," said Levy. "Now the work really begins."

It did begin, immediately, as Tampa prepared for its greatest sports happening.

"We set about the day after we got the game to make Tampa better for the week of January 22, 1984," said Levy. "We wanted our Super Bowl to be the best, to have the most convenient circumstances for more people than ever before."

Tampa Airport: one of the world's finest.

Hired quickly as Super Bowl coordinator was Barbara Casey. Levy appointed committees for every possible project and exigency. Organized quickly was a Super Host Committee. This group would campaign for all in the Tampa Bay area to be just that—super hosts. Don't overcharge, don't gouge was a plea. Smile, be helpful, clean up the town.

The Super Hosts also would provide detailed information booths around the town and in media headquarters, which is the Downtown Hyatt, with spillover to other downtown hotels. Tampa, with help from donors, began a beautification project.

The NFL, seeing opportunity for the most convenient of Super Bowls, chose for the first time to put the competing teams within eyesight of each other. Team hotels would be the Airport Holiday Inn and the Tampa Airport Hilton, no more than a dozen blocks apart, just a jog from Tampa Stadium, the airport itself, and the Buccaneers' headquarters. One team would work there, one at the University of South Florida. Moreover, there are other large hotels near the team hotels and all are but 12 minutes from media headquarters at the Hyatt.

"A marvel of this place," said Culverhouse, "is that nothing is very far from anything. That's a generalization, but true. Most everything is a twenty-minute ride from the other thing. Unlike so many places, at this Super Bowl no one will be wasting time on the road." Even Disney World is but a little over an hour away. The Gulf beaches are 30 minutes from downtown Tampa.

NFL special events director Jim Steeg paid high compliment when asked last September how things were going. He said, "The problems we have in Tampa we would not bother with in another city. Things have gone so smoothly it is scary."

All this, plus the hope and expectation for good weather, suggests record stays by those who come. It is anticipated that perhaps more Super Bowl visitors will remain longer in the area than at any other Super Bowl site. Evidence came in the form of reservations and the fact that three months before the game, an NFL official said the ticket already had become the toughest ticket in Super Bowl history.

To help entertain the visitors and the local folk, a Budweiser Festival was scheduled for downtown Tampa on January 21 with nearly two dozen forms of free entertainment and food with a Florida flavor. Ybor City, the Latin section, planned its own celebration. Phil Alessi and Ferdie Pacheco began arranging a nationally (NBC) televised fight. Coach Lee Rose of the University of South Florida signed up DePaul for a Super Bowl week basketball game. Tampa Bay Downs developed a Super Bowl Stakes race, as did the St. Petersburg Kennel (Derby Lane) Club, and the Tampa Jai-Alai Fronton worked up something special. A run, a golf tournament, a tennis tournament, and a sail boat race emerged.

Busch Gardens and Florida Governor Bob Graham combined for a special party for the media. Some 500 buses, 8,000 rental cars, and 500 parking places for private aircraft were lined up. More than 100 limousines were rushed in. (Tampa had about three available before it won the right to host the Super Bowl, suggesting that, at least in that way, the good life got better for those who could afford it.)

And finally, Summerall, who with John Madden, Brent Musburger, Jimmy (The Greek) Snyder, and others make up the 700-person CBS entourage, was called upon for one more favor for his home state. He flew in and worked both radio and TV bits on behalf of the Super Bowl in general and the Super Host theme in particular. His punch line always has been:

"If they love us when they leave us, they'll be back."

"And that," says Levy, "is goal number three." ■

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Sidelights

A World Event

Not only did more than 40 million households in the United States view Super Bowl XVII—making it the most watched sporting event of all time—but a record number of countries received the game as well. Residents of 30 nations saw the game. Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Japan, Italy, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Panama, Hong Kong, Brazil, West Germany, Spain, Belgium, Iceland, and the Philippines all televised the game live.

In Great Britain, the game coverage started at 10 P.M. and ended five hours later. Miles Aiken, a former basketball player in the United States, flew to Pasadena to provide viewers with a supplement to NBC's play-by-play. In the studio in London, disc jockey Nicky Horne and New England kicker John Smith, a British citizen, added local commentary.

Makin' (Radio) Waves

Hank Stram and Jack Buck

The CBS Radio Network has carried each of the first 17 Super Bowls. Add this year's game to the list. It will be beamed to more than 300 radio stations around the world affiliated with CBS or the American Forces radio network. More than 30 countries and 100 American ships at sea will receive the game live.

Super Bowl XVIII will be the first Super Bowl to be broadcast on radio via satellite. During the past year, CBS converted from ground lines to satellite transmission, so this year's audience will be part of a first.

Speaking of firsts, the premier crew in sports radio will be covering the game. Jack Buck will do the play-by-play, and Hank Stram the analysis. Dick Stockton will handle the pregame show, and Brent Musberger halftime.

Buck and Stram have proven their ability with their ever-popular coverage of Monday night games. Up to 14 million fans listen to them each week.

As effective as this broadcast team is on Mondays, Stram should be even more of an authority this Super Sunday. He led the Kansas City Chiefs into the first Super Bowl. And he guided the Chiefs to the Super Bowl IV championship, in the last appearance by an AFL team before the leagues merged in 1970.

The Envelope, Please

Today the best teams in the NFL will be showcased, but last night the league's best individual players were honored. At a banquet in Tampa, the NFL Alumni Association presented its 11 player of the year awards.

The awards are given by position, for the best running back, quarterback, tight end, wide receiver, offensive lineman, defensive lineman, linebacker, defensive back, kicker, kick returner, and special teams player. The 8,000 members of the NFL Alumni Association select the winners, voting only for the positions they played.

The NFL Alumni Old Hero Award—given to someone "whose life and career has exemplified the higher values the NFL Alumni teaches: sportsmanship, scholarship, and citizenship"—was awarded to President Ronald Reagan.

The Video Game

John Madden and Pat Summerall

Nine of the 10 most viewed sports events in television history have been Super Bowls. Count on Super Bowl XVIII to join that list. And with today's game having a possibility of passing Super Bowl XVII for the record number of television viewers, CBS has put together a production to do justice to the game.

For the presentation of Super Bowl XVIII, CBS has assembled a huge store of the world's most sophisticated video technology. The equipment for the game includes 20 cameras, several of which will be in the air shooting from the Goodyear blimp.

The hosts of "NFL Today"

The other equipment for the game includes 14 tape and replay units; a DVE, which is used for zooming action onto the screen on replays; an ADDA, which is an electronic still storage device that allows face shots of individual players to be flashed onto the screen; a video compressor to project insets onto the main image; and a character generator for on-air graphics.

The CBS Chalkboard, which has become a favorite among viewers over the past several years, also will be used to help fans understand certain aspects of the game action.

The talent in front of and behind the camera is at least as impressive as the hardware being used. The game action will be described by Pat Summerall, with color and analysis being provided by former Oakland Raiders (and winning Super Bowl XI) head coach John Madden. The producer for the game is Terry O'Neill, and the director is Sandy Grossman.

The pregame show will feature the regular cast of "NFL Today," with a few special additions. Brent Musberger, Irv Cross, Jimmy (The Greek) Snyder, and Phyllis George will host the show. Analysis of the two teams will be provided by former NFL head coaches Dick Vermeil and Hank Stram. Summerall and Madden will also add color. The producer for the pregame show is George Veras and the executive producer is Ted Shaker.

Super Bowl XVIII will be carried live by more than 225 television stations in the United States and abroad.

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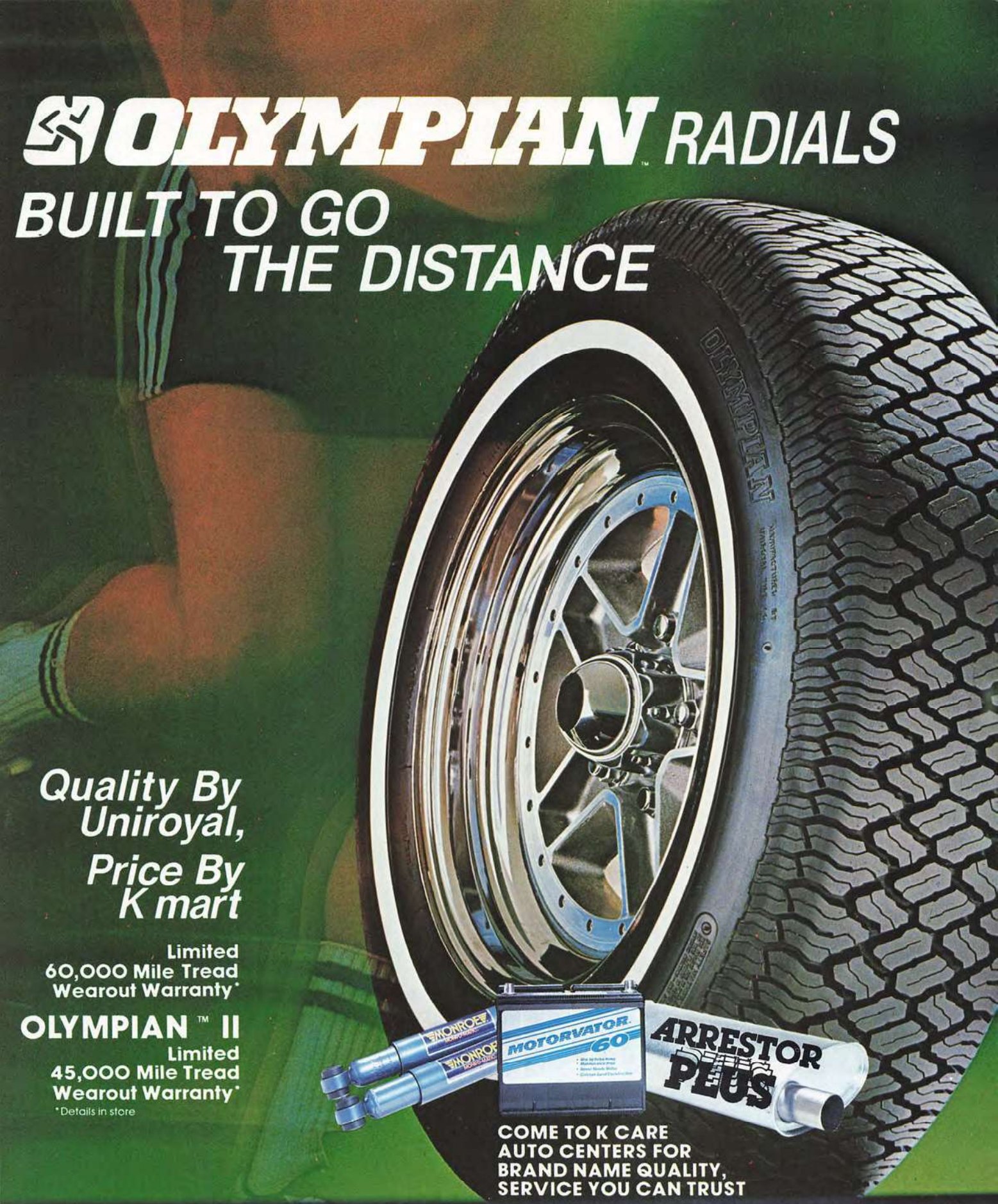

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"Come to think of it, I'll have a Heineken."

Showtime

Super Bowl XVIII pregame festivities will begin at Tampa Stadium 90 minutes before kickoff with highlights of the past 17 Super Bowls, which will be shown on the Diamond Vision scoreboard.

The game highlights will be followed by musical entertainment from two of America's best college bands, the University of Florida and Florida State University. The joint effort between the schools marks the first time the two competing marching units have performed on the same field at the same time. Almost 600 band members will participate in the musical tribute to the Super Bowl.

According to Gerald S. Poe, director of bands for the University of Florida (Andre Arrouet directs the Florida State band), the logistics of getting the two groups together were more complicated than overcoming the intraschool rivalry. "The major problem," says Poe, "was the distance between the two schools [180 miles]. Because of this, we weren't able to get together to practice as often as we would have liked. Both schools practiced on their own until the Friday before the Super Bowl. Then Florida State bused up to our campus in Gainesville, and we practiced as a group on Friday, Saturday, and a bit on the day of the game."

One of the world's most popular recording artists, Barry Manilow, will be singing the National Anthem today. Manilow has an incredible string of 25 consecutive "Top 40" hits and 10 straight platinum albums (given for sales of one to four million). To date, he has total international sales of 50 million records. Manilow, who has won an Emmy, Grammy, and has been voted the American Music Award's Top Male Pop Vocalist, also has been selected the United Way of America's National Chairman for Youth and Voluntarism.

During the National Anthem, a color guard from MacDill Air Force Base near Tampa will be stationed on the field. As the anthem is being played, a huge (160′ x 97′) American flag donated by Thomas (Ski) Demski will be unfurled. The flag will stretch from the goal line to the 50-yard line.

One of the NFL's most famous figures, Bronko Nagurski, will be today's honorary coin tosser prior to kickoff. The legendary Chicago Bears fullback (who played with the Bears from 1930-37 and in 1943) was elected as a charter member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1963.

The University of Florida marching band (left); Mickey and Minnie, stars of the halftime show.

The Florida State band; Barry Manilow (right) will sing the National Anthem at Super Bowl XVIII.

Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, promises the Super Bowl's most spectacular halftime show yet, which is titled "Super Bowl XVIII's Salute to the Superstars of the Silver Screen."

The show will feature all of the favorite Disney characters, as well as 1,200-1,400 other performers, the bulk of whom are made up of local students from the Hillsborough School District in Tampa.

Disney held auditions in October at local schools and any interested student in the district was encouraged to participate. The students who were selected began group rehearsals at 11 area high schools late in December. The individual groups rehearsed three or four times in a three-week period, and last Sunday Disney brought the groups together for a walk-through practice. On Friday, January 20, a full-scale dress rehearsal was held at Tampa's Laito High School.

Getting all the various elements and performers to the game will be a challenge for Walt Disney World. A platoon of 50-60 buses will be used to transport the performers to Tampa Stadium. The buses will arrive after kickoff in an attempt to avoid the traffic prior to the game. After the buses have arrived, all the performers will assemble outside the stadium and wait for halftime to begin. During the show, a stage crew of 200 will be on hand to help facilitate set changes.

Special thanks are due Coca Cola, Maas Brothers Department Store, Mitchell's Formal Wear, National Car Rental, Nestle's, Sun Bank, Sun Giant, Taffy's Showstoppers, the United Way of America, and Wise Potato Chips for their contributions to the halftime show. ■

From Germany, the new Audi 5000S luxury sedan

Over the years, Audi has developed a reputation for putting its advanced designs on the road while other car makers were still on the drawing board.

The new Audi 5000S sedan and wagon are no exception.

Having recently introduced the 5000S sedan—the automobile voted Europe's "Car of The Year"—Audi engineers then redefined the very concept of a wagon.

The result? An automobile that, like the sedan, is reshaping the world's thinking about automotive design. An automobile so advanced in its styling, there's some question as to whether it should be called a "wagon".

The Aerodynamics Of An Exotic Sports Car. All of the advanced styling and engineering concepts of the Audi 5000S sedan have been incorporated into the 5000S wagon.

A drag coefficient of only 0.35 results not only in one of the most "air slippery" designs ever conceived, but in the kind of performance more normally associated with sophisticated sports cars.

Engineered For Speed And Agility. Acceleration for both cars is brisk: 0 to 50 mph in just 8.0 seconds for the sedan, 8.4 seconds for the wagon.

Tracking and directional control are outstanding, even in strong crosswinds. Handling, cornering and general maneuverability are astounding for cars of this size and type—the result of Audi's leadership in front-wheel-drive technology and high-performance suspensions.

Advanced Design Has Its Practical Side. If the staid, utilitarian image of conven-

This year's auto shows will feature a number of stunningly aerodynamic prototypes you can't buy.

And two you can.

and wagon.

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tional wagons has kept you from buying one, the new Audi wagon is well worth your consideration.

Inherent in its dramatic styling is a wealth of carrying space. With either or both rear seats folded down, it provides a carpeted expanse over six and one-half feet in length. The tailgate opens flush with the rear deck for easy loading. Beneath the rear deck is additional hidden storage space.

The interiors of both the sedan and wagon are supremely luxurious and handsomely equipped with full instrumentation including our new, computerized Auto Check System.

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You'll be playing 18 holes of golf on a course designed by Jack Nicklaus, and swimming in a free-form swimming pool with a grotto bar and a very special restaurant, Hemingway's, perched on a rock formation right in the middle.

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HALAS REMEMBERED

THREE VERY PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON
GEORGE HALAS BY THREE MEN WHOSE LIVES HE TOUCHED.

In 1920 George Halas was the 25-year-old player-coach of the Decatur, Illinois, Staleys football team owned by the A.E. Staley Company, a manufacturer of starch products. Halas had already proven his own athletic starch, being named the most valuable player in the 1919 Rose Bowl. The following spring, with no minor league playing experience, Halas became an outfielder with the New York Yankees.

In September of 1920, Halas of the Staleys, along with representatives of 11 other teams from five states, founded the American Professional Football Association. The next year the Staleys moved to nearby Chicago, with Halas as part-owner, and won the championship of the fledgling 13-team league. The league became the National Football League soon after, and the Staleys became the Bears.

During the 61 years that followed, George Halas, Papa Bear, earned his reputation as a player, a coach, and an owner, as a pioneer, an innovator, and a patriarch. He won more games (325) than any other football coach in his 40 seasons on the sideline, won eight NFL championships, and is enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame along with 18 Bears players he coached, the largest group from any one team.

His life and his sport were one.

Merv Corning

Halas as player-coach of the Decatur Staleys.

A LEGEND'S LEGACY LIVES

BY RAY SONS

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George Halas is dead, they say. But he can't be. The Old Man is too tough to die. Too mean, too strong, too caring, too great, too much alive.

It may be true that his big old heart stopped, but what he did will live longer than any of us.

He gave us the game to fill our Sunday afternoons and Monday nights with color and life.

He dwarfed all others in the history of Chicago sports. More than that, he ranks with Ruth, Thorpe, and Dempsey among the Giants of sport in our nation.

If you think that is too much praise, you must be younger than 30 or you moved here [Chicago] less than a generation ago.

When a great man lives to be 88, we tend to lose sight of his greatness. People see him in the dim light cast by his football team in the years since 1967, his last season of active coaching. He made the Bears, and he made them great. And they stayed great as long as he had the strength to seize them by the furry ears and pull them up, as long as his brain could leap a season or two ahead of his competition.

He won more football games than any other coach—more than Bryant, more than Stagg. The obituaries will say he was the last survivor of the men who sat on the running boards in a Hupmobile showroom in Canton, Ohio, and gave birth to what has become the National Football League. But he did so much more than that. He was the creator who breathed life into the sport.

His showmanship, exemplified by the signing of Red Grange, brought the first huge crowds to pro football. The rules changes that sprang from his brain put wings on a plodding game. His greatest teams of the 1930s and 1940s pioneered the explosive offensive show of modern football. When he was already old, 68, he brought Chicago its last complete championship in any major sport, the NFL title of 1963.

Sure, he was tight-fisted. If he hadn't been, the Bears would have drowned in a sea of red ink in the Great Depression, long before television could reward his vision and make him a millionaire. Sure, he was tough. If he hadn't been, he never would have survived 10 years as an end on his team, when men played offense and defense in primitive equipment and seldom came out before the final whistle unless they were carried out. Smaller than most of his opponents, he somehow earned a place on the all-NFL team of the 1920s. How? "I was small, but dirty," he once told me, laughing at himself. He must have been fast, too, we reminded him, because he returned a Jim Thorpe fumble for 98 yards and a touchdown. That wasn't speed, he said with a grin. It was fear. "I was running for my life. I knew that Indian had corrugated iron in his shoulder pads."

He got a reputation for being mean, because the Bears hit harder than other teams. To him, football was a contact sport and he had no patience with "crybabies" who had no stomach for that. He was a hard boss, because he brooked no loafing or quitting. He had no patience with players who gave less than their best and soon got rid of them.

But he was the softest of men, when the public could not see his softness. He would fight his players for every nickel in contract talks, then give it all back and more—when no one was looking. He "loaned" money to old players to start businesses, to finance educations, to pay their hospital bills and those of their loved ones. The loans became gifts when he refused repayment. He just laughed at those who deemed him tight, knowing his God would remember charity done in secret.

If he had a weakness, it was in failing to see the weaknesses of those around him, to whom he entrusted the work of his life when he could go it alone no longer. The decline of the Bears has been the price of loyalty.

In a life filled with personal tragedy (the early deaths of his wife, his only son, the woman who would have been his second wife), he stood straight and kept his tears in his heart. Pain from early injuries was constant in his later years, but when his ruined hips made him grimace, he somehow twisted the grimace into a smile. Sadly, his final year was spent in seclusion, waging a losing war against the illness that age would not let him beat.

We'll remember him as long as our memories live. We'll see him lurching along the sidelines, his tongue lashing the officials for a penalty called against the Bears, one they probably deserved.

Tough old bird, the Old Man, with his leather helmet, his litany of four-letter words, and his teeth filed down by biting nickels. Maybe he wasn't quite a saint. (That's for Someone Else to judge.) But he was saintly, in his rough way.

Next time you turn on the television to watch his sport, say a prayer for the guy who gave you the game. Sure, the game made him rich. But we are all richer because he was here. ■

AN INTRODUCTION TO PAPA

BY BILL McGRANE

Jack Zehrt

A fiery competitor as a player and a coach, Halas was famous for his sideline "lectures."

It was after 6 P.M., and they should have been there.

I don't remember how much after . . . just too much.

The evening was working up to one of those wild, unrestricted storms that you know about if you grew up in the Midwest. My office windows were floor-to-ceiling—thick, skyscraper glass. They flexed and groaned against the force of a Windy City blow.

Down on the street, pedestrians leaned into the wind as they cornered Jackson, onto Wabash. A tattered newspaper page spiralled past my window . . . and I was on the twelfth floor.

It was 1977, and the Cubs had opened their home baseball season that April afternoon. Pete, my oldest, had gone to the game with two pals. Afterwards, they were to ride the El train from Wrigley Field to my office downtown.

Dottie, who is my wife, didn't like the idea of them riding the El, but I had talked her into it.

They should have been at my office. It was late.

I could see El trains debark passengers at the Jackson Street stop, but they weren't among them. Three 12-year-olds.

Dottie called several times to remind me she hadn't liked the El idea.

They'd been beaten up by a street gang, she figured, or worse.

Then they banged on the back door of the office, just after 7 o'clock.

Wind-blown? They were wind-*blasted*. Their noses were red and their hands were like ice, but their eyes positively shone.

As in triumph.

Because parenting can be pretty stuffy business, I was more aware of the time than those shining eyes.

I said, "Where the hell have you been?"

"We walked!" They answered in chorus.

"From Wrigley Field?" I yelped.

From Wrigley Field. Better than five miles, in weather that was kissing-cousin to a tornado.

"Why?" A vintage parent question.

Pete, who was shy then and still is quiet, studied his shoes.

"We'd never done anything big, like that," he said. "We just thought it would be neat to try." He looked up, then. . .he looked like a winner. "And we did it."

I made a fine parental groan.

"Come on, we're going home. Your mothers are ready to shoot me."

We started toward the reception area.

Down the hall, his door was open and you could see him sitting at his desk.

Tim, the little one, stopped as if he had bumped into a wall.

"Is that Mr. Halas?" he whispered.

"That's Mr. Halas. . .now, let's go."

"Gee," Tim said softly. "That's George Halas, sitting right there."

I like to think a stuffy-parent mooring broke loose inside me, but it probably had more to do with the look on Tim's face.

"Would you guys like to meet him?"

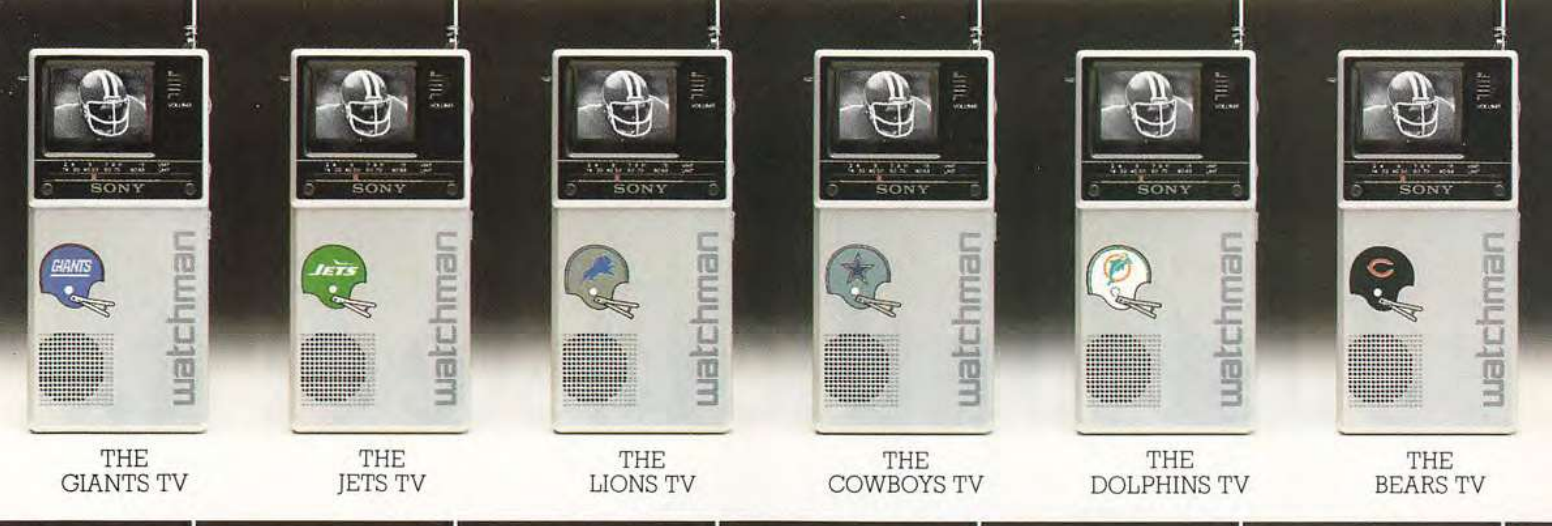
Three tousled heads nodded.

George Halas had set the paperwork aside and was having a glass of wine with Max, who masqueraded as an employee, but was truly Halas's sidekick. Halas called him "Stash." They had been together since streetcars were a novelty.

I stuck my head in the door.

"Coach, have you got a minute to meet three crazy kids?" I asked.

He smiled, and scrubbed a large hand



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across that prominent Bohemian jaw.

"You bet I do," he said.

We were seated around his desk and I started to tell the story of their trek from Wrigley Field.

Started. . .because before I got very far, Halas boomed a fist down on his desk loud enough to make Tim jump in his chair.

"By God," he said, "that's the spirit!"

The look on my face made him laugh.

"Come on," he said, "don't begrudge these young fellows having the guts to try something tough." He nodded, and those fierce, old eyes swept the three youngsters. "If I could get around a little better, I'd have been right there with you!"

From then on, it was Halas and the three kids, immersed in their adventure. They described their route and he named the streets, chuckling and nodding. I reeled them in after 10 minutes. They would have talked to him all night.

We got up to leave, after the handshakes, and Halas dug a sheaf of bills from his pocket.

He peeled off three fives.

"That kind of initiative should be rewarded," he announced. The fivers were passed around.

Little Tim took a deep breath.

"Mr. Halas, would you sign this for me? I'd like to keep it." Then the three of them were holding out their five-dollar bills.

Halas signed each one, slowly, with obvious care.

"Shame to ruin good money, putting my name on it," he growled. The boys said it wasn't.

But he snorted, turning that sore hip again, so he could dig into his pocket. Max was grinning, sitting off to the side.

Halas produced three more fivers.

"You fellows take these, too," he said, "in case your parents won't let you spend those other ones."

At the door, Pete said, "Thank you."

Halas grinned. "Thank me," he answered, "by keeping that same spunk you showed tonight."

Halas.

As in spunk.

When the illness let him know it wasn't fooling, Halas let it be known that he would confront it privately, on his own terms.

Most of us. . .being a little shorter in the spunk department. . .face our trials more publicly. . .that is to say, we like for a lot of sympathy to be shown.

That wasn't his way.

To the end, he wanted to be involved in his team. Doctors and nurses hovered, but when the rare visitor from the club got through, the talk was of rookies, of who looked good, of who was hurt, about the run-pass balance.

Word came late on that Monday afternoon in October: "He's very bad."

Halas and Lincoln on a priceless memento.

In this business, Monday means football, and had he been up to it, Halas would have been watching Washington at San Diego. It turned out to be a hell of a game.

Just as it started, the cameras panned faces in the crowd. . .excited, comic, Halloween-masked, involved faces.

And it struck me.

All those people, 2,000 miles away on a gorgeous California evening, delighting in a game that he, more than anyone, had given to them. People, fans all across the country, were having a great time as he lay dying in that old pink apartment building, overlooking the darkened lake. I think rather than dwelling on the sad counterpoint, he would have approved their enjoyment as a fitting requiem.

He'd put those people there, in San Diego. . .because he had cared enough to keep going when pro football's soup was very thin.

The phone rang then, and the first thing the caller said was, "He's gone."

I saw Max at the wake. He stood off to the side, but where he was never out of sight of Halas. He looked smaller in death, but that jaw still jutted.

I asked Max if he remembered the stormy night and the kids hiking from Wrigley Field.

He smiled and nodded.

"Halas, he liked that those boys would try something challenging. The way he looked at them, I think he was probably a lot like that when he was a kid."

I said that probably was right.

Max laughed softly.

"Those boys will remember that night," he concluded.

I said I thought they would.

Maybe I remember it more. ■

BELOVED BEAR

BY PATRICK McCASKEY

Bruce Dierdorff

Halas at the Hall of Fame ceremony, 1982.

When George Halas died on October 31, 1983, I lost a grandfather, my godfather, and a great friend.

When Gramps was coaching at Wrigley Field, my brothers and I sat on an army blanket next to the Bears' bench. After the games, we waited for him outside the Bears' locker room. Regardless of the outcome of the game, he said to each of us, "Hi pal. How about a kiss for Grandpa?"

When we were older, my brothers and I got to attend Bears training camps at St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana. Those camps were a kid's football fantasy. Bill Wade taught us how to play quarterback; Bill George taught us linebacking; and George Blanda taught us how to placekick.

At the start of one training camp visit my grandfather called his grandsons over to the golfcart he always rode in at practice. He gave us some pocket money. When tight end (now Bears head coach) Mike Ditka observed the transaction, he came over to participate.

"Hey Coach, how about some of that for me?" Ditka said.

"Never mind," Halas replied. His favorite parable was the one about the workers in the vineyard.

I was unhappy in the spring of my sophomore year at Notre Dame High School in Niles, Illinois. My classmates

did not seem to like me and I wanted to transfer to a different school. My parents would have allowed me to transfer, but first they wanted me to talk with my grandfather. He was generally not a great listener, but he was that day. After he had heard me out, he said, "This is a small test. If you run from this, you'll run when something really difficult happens later in your life. Those fellows are jealous of you because you have a lot of talent. So get in there and show them."

I followed his advice and stayed at Notre Dame. As a senior, I played quarterback and linebacker. Our team finished 9-0, outscored our opponents 341-80, and ranked as one of the top prep teams in the country. I was fortunate enough to be named to the Catholic All-America team. I guess it turned out that Grandpa was right as usual.

After high school I attended Cheshire Academy in Connecticut to get another year of playing experience. Instead I had to give up football because of severe eye trouble. Discouraged, I talked with Grandpa. He told me how he started out in baseball, but had to give that up because of a hip injury. It was only because of the baseball injury, he said, that he turned to football full time. He declared, "It doesn't matter what you do, as long as you excel."

So instead of playing football at Cheshire, I ran cross country. I won the majority of my races, including the one for the conference championship. Once again, Grandpa's advice was on the money. He was always pushing himself, his team, and those he loved to strive to be the best they could be.

I later went on to Indiana University. My last class there was Thursday, June 20, 1974. I started working for the Bears full time the following Monday.

One morning at the office, I was telling my Uncle Mugs and my father that I had had speaking engagements the last three nights. My grandfather happened to be walking by and overheard the conversation. "Where are you speaking tonight?" he asked.

"I don't have a speaking engagement tonight," I replied.

"That's too bad," he said.

Frequently we ate dinner together after work. When a Bears fan would stop by our table to ask for an autograph, he would always comply. He loved the Bears, and appreciated any sign that a fan did too.

For family dinners, I often drove him out to my parents' home. He asked me

Vernon Biever

Embracing greatness: Lombardi and Halas.

about my girlfriends, and I asked him about his. We had no conflict because he "never dated anyone under 48."

During one drive back to his apartment, he was silent for a long time and seemed to be very angry. Finally he said, "When you have bread at dinner, cut the bread in half and then butter it. Don't butter the whole piece."

Once he had spoken his mind about anything—football or etiquette—the issue was forgotten as far as he was concerned. He lived to be 88 years old, and often said, "Life is too short for grudges."

One day he called me into his office. "Get a masters degree," he said. It was a very short meeting.

In February, 1977, out of the blue he sent me a wonderful note. "...work every day by *writing* every day. Make me even more proud than I am of you. Love, George."

The last five years of his life, his grandchildren would take him out to dinner on his birthday. On February 2, 1983, his eighty-eighth birthday, we should have known something was amiss because he told us that he did not swear anymore. He also said, "May the Good Lord grant all of you as long and as wonderful a life as I have had."

Last June 26, a special day because it was the anniversary of Grandma Min's birthday, my fiancee, Gretchen Wagle, and I called on Grandpa. He was convalescing and looking frail for the first time in his life. He had purchased the ring I was giving Gretchen more than 60 years ago for Grandma Min.

"I bought it for $250 in a pawn shop," he said. "I wanted to make sure it was over a carat and yet I wouldn't have paid $750 for it."

He died while I was on the way to Los Angeles to advance the Rams game. My brother Brian called to tell me the news. I decided to proceed with my Bears duties the way Grandpa would have wanted. I worked the Rams' press breakfast the next morning and then flew to Chicago for the wake and the funeral.

The wake could have been a very sad occasion. But so many people came up to my mother and the family to say they were fans and had wanted to come to honor Grandpa. Several brought along personal letters from Grandpa or recalled some brief meeting many years before. It became a celebration of an extraordinarily rich and full life. Before the casket was closed, my brother Joe said, "Goodbye Pal."

My brothers Mike, Tim, Ned, Rick, Brian, and I were pallbearers. I read from Lamentations and the Psalms to the congregation, and my brother George read Paul's Letter to Timothy. In his homily, Fr. Banet, the president of St. Joseph's College, described George Halas as "a man of faith and a man of prayer." And he was.

After the funeral, my brother Mike, the Bears' new president and a former professor at the Harvard Business School, found a letter from Grandpa to Uncle Mugs. Dated June 12, 1945 the letter was written aboard ship "somewhere off the Phillipines" when Grandpa was in the navy during World War II.

At the time Mugs was in a Naval Cadet training program. Grandpa wrote of his pride in Mugs's accomplishments, encouraging him to keep making his best efforts. Mugs was thinking of switching from engineering (Grandpa's college major) to business. Grandpa wrote, "Dear Pal...it always has been my thought that regardless of what you received your college degree in, I wanted you to attend the two-year course at the Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration. That is the best business course in the country and I want you to have a fine education in business—something I did not have..." Some dreams take another generation. ■

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HONDA

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SUPER BOWL RINGS:

BY HUBERT MIZELL PHOTOGRAPH BY FRANK SHANKLE

GAME I
GREEN BAY 35 KANSAS CITY 10

GAME II
GREEN BAY 33 OAKLAND 14

GAME III
N.Y. JETS 16 BALTIMORE 7

GAME VII
MIAMI 14 WASHINGTON 7

GAME VIII
MIAMI 24 MINNESOTA 7

GAME IX
PITTSBURGH 16 MINNESOTA 6

GAME XIII
PITTSBURGH 35 DALLAS 31

GAME XIV
PITTSBURGH 31 L.A. RAMS 19

GAME XV
OAKLAND 27 PHILADELPHIA 10

SYMBOLS OF VICTORY

GAME IV
KANSAS CITY 23 MINNESOTA 7

GAME V
BALTIMORE 16 DALLAS 13

GAME VI
DALLAS 24 MIAMI 3

GAME X
PITTSBURGH 21 DALLAS 17

GAME XI
OAKLAND 32 MINNESOTA 14

GAME XII
DALLAS 27 DENVER 10

GAME XVI
SAN FRANCISCO 26 CINCINNATI 21

GAME XVII
WASHINGTON 27 MIAMI 17

For scientists, the ultimate prize is the Nobel. For actors, there are Oscars and Emmys. For journalists, Pulitzers. And, for professional football players, there is no grander prize than a Super Bowl championship ring.

"The money's nice when you win a Super Bowl," said Washington quarterback Joe Theismann after winning Super Bowl XVII, "but it'll soon be gone. If I don't spend it, my wife will. But, the Super

Bowl ring is forever. That's what you're really playing for."

Nearly a thousand players, from Bart Starr and Jim Taylor in Game I to John Riggins and Dave Butz last year, have known the special feeling of slipping a Super Bowl ring onto their fingers. Still, many of the giants of the sport never get to wear one. "I'd trade a bunch of Pro Bowl jewelry," said Merlin Olsen, the remarkable former Rams defensive tackle who has become an acclaimed football broadcaster, "for just one Super Bowl ring."

Following the Redskins' Super Bowl XVII victory, quarterback Theismann, a man of many words, said he wanted "the biggest, gaudiest, most conceitful ring ever made." While the Redskins spent more than double the NFL allowance of $2,400 per ring, each of which includes 17 diamonds, theirs remains one of the sleeker designs in the history of Super Bowl rings.

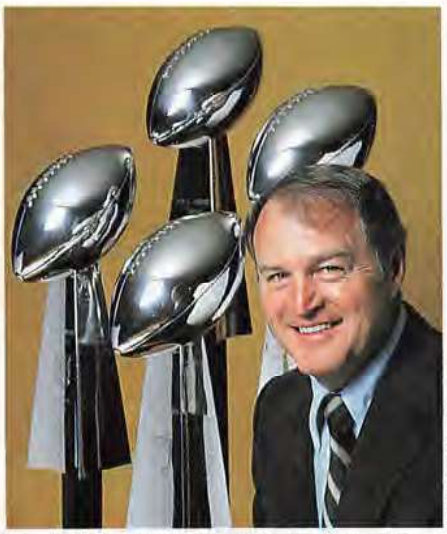
A limit has been placed on the volume of diamonds used. For a first-time Super Bowl champion, it's 120 points. Another 20 points can be added for each additional championship a franchise wins in a 10-year span. Before such limits, the Oakland Raiders produced the most glittering Super Bowl rings of all. After Super Bowl XI, more than 2.6 carats of diamonds were included in each of the rings. When the Raiders won Super Bowl XV, managing general partner Al Davis said, "I can't ask these guys to accept something smaller for their second title." So the order was for rings with 3.15 carats.

Receiving a Super Bowl ring is one of life's special events. When the 49ers' rings arrived from the manufacturer after Super Bowl XVI, head coach Bill Walsh said, "The players were so anxious, they didn't want to wait until training camp. Players who live in the area came to pick theirs up. We shipped the rings to some players out of town, but a few couldn't even wait that long, so they flew in at their own expense."

When the Raiders were passing out rings from Super Bowl XV, veteran tight end Raymond Chester became teary-eyed as he said, "There are things more important than Super Bowl rings—like God and family." Looking around the room at team faces, Chester added, "But, on second thought, this *is* family."

Not all the people who wind up with Super Bowl rings are players and coaches. Rings go to team doctors, trainers, equipment people, scouts, and front office personnel. Not to mention, of course, the owners.

Many Super Bowl rings weigh as much as 30 pennyweight. That's almost four and a half times as heavy as the average high school ring. When the Steelers designed their ring from Super Bowl XIV—their fourth—it was smaller and had a stylish Florentine finish. "I can even wear this one," said Art Rooney, the owner of the team. "With the others, I couldn't bend my knuckle."



John Zimmerman

Chuck Noll with Steelers' Lombardi Trophies.

Steelers quarterback Terry Bradshaw needed all four of his Super Bowl rings so he could have one for himself. Bradshaw gave the first one from Super Bowl IX to his father, the one from X to his older brother, and the ring from XIII to a younger brother. Bradshaw, however, wears the Game XIV ring.

While Super Bowl rings are *the* symbols of individual champions, it is the Vince Lombardi trophy that is the classic symbol of team Super Bowl supremacy.

Designed by Oscar Riedener of New York's Tiffany and Company for Super Bowl I (then known as the AFL-NFL World Championship Game) in January, 1967, the award was named three years later for Vince Lombardi, who coached the Green Bay Packers to victories in the first two Super Bowls.

Lombardi Trophies find various permanent resting places. The Redskins' prize from Super Bowl XVII spends most of its time in Duke Ziebert's, a place in downtown Washington where noted sports personalities gather.

San Francisco's trophy from Super Bowl XVI is the shiny centerpiece in the 49ers' lobby at their complex in Redwood City, California.

In the Three Rivers Stadium offices of the Steelers, housed for continuous public viewing, are the record four Lombardi trophies won by Chuck Noll-coached teams. For owner Art Rooney, it wasn't enough to have his silver quadruplets engraved with Super Bowl scores, years, and mottos of the franchise. He had Tiffany etch in the name of every player, coach, and administrative employee who had anything to do with the heroic moments.

Four other Lombardi Trophies, two apiece, have gone to the Miami Dolphins and Dallas Cowboys, and the selection of shelves was similar. The trophy from Miami's unbelievable, unequalled, 17-0 season in 1972 is on the mantel just outside owner Joe Robbie's office, while the Dolphins' second Lombardi Trophy from Super Bowl VIII is in the office of head coach Don Shula. The Cowboys placed their Super Bowl VI trophy in the office of head coach Tom Landry, and the trophy from Super Bowl XII is in the office of Dallas's president, Tex Schramm.

Likewise, the trophy from the Kansas City Chiefs' Super Bowl IV victory can now be found in the office of Chiefs president Jack Steadman.

The Packers put their first AFL-NFL World Championship Game Trophy in the Packer Hall of Fame, across the street from Lambeau Field; their other one, from Game II, rests in the lobby of the club's headquarters.

The Jets placed their Super Bowl Trophy where current players and coaches can view it, at their training site on the Long Island campus of Hofstra University.

The Oakland Raiders won Super Bowls XI and XV, but due to the club's move to Los Angeles, the two Lombardi Trophies have been placed temporarily where nobody can see them—in a bank vault. They are to be displayed in a case at United Airlines' new Los Angeles International Airport terminal.

Baltimore rebounded from its loss to the Jets in Super Bowl III to win Game V, but the Colts retained their Lombardi Trophy for only a brief time. When late owner Carroll Rosenbloom executed a unique trade of teams and became owner of the Los Angeles Rams, he took the trophy from Super Bowl V with him to California. It has remained in the possession of Rosenbloom's widow, Georgia Frontiere, owner of the Rams.

There is a Lombardi Trophy sitting in the Colts' offices in suburban Baltimore, but it's a duplicate from Tiffany's to replace the one that migrated west. ■

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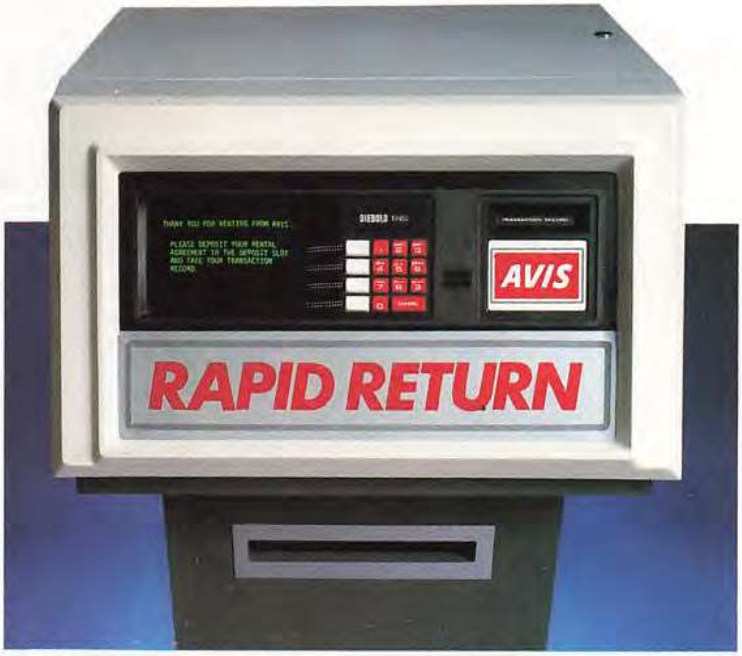

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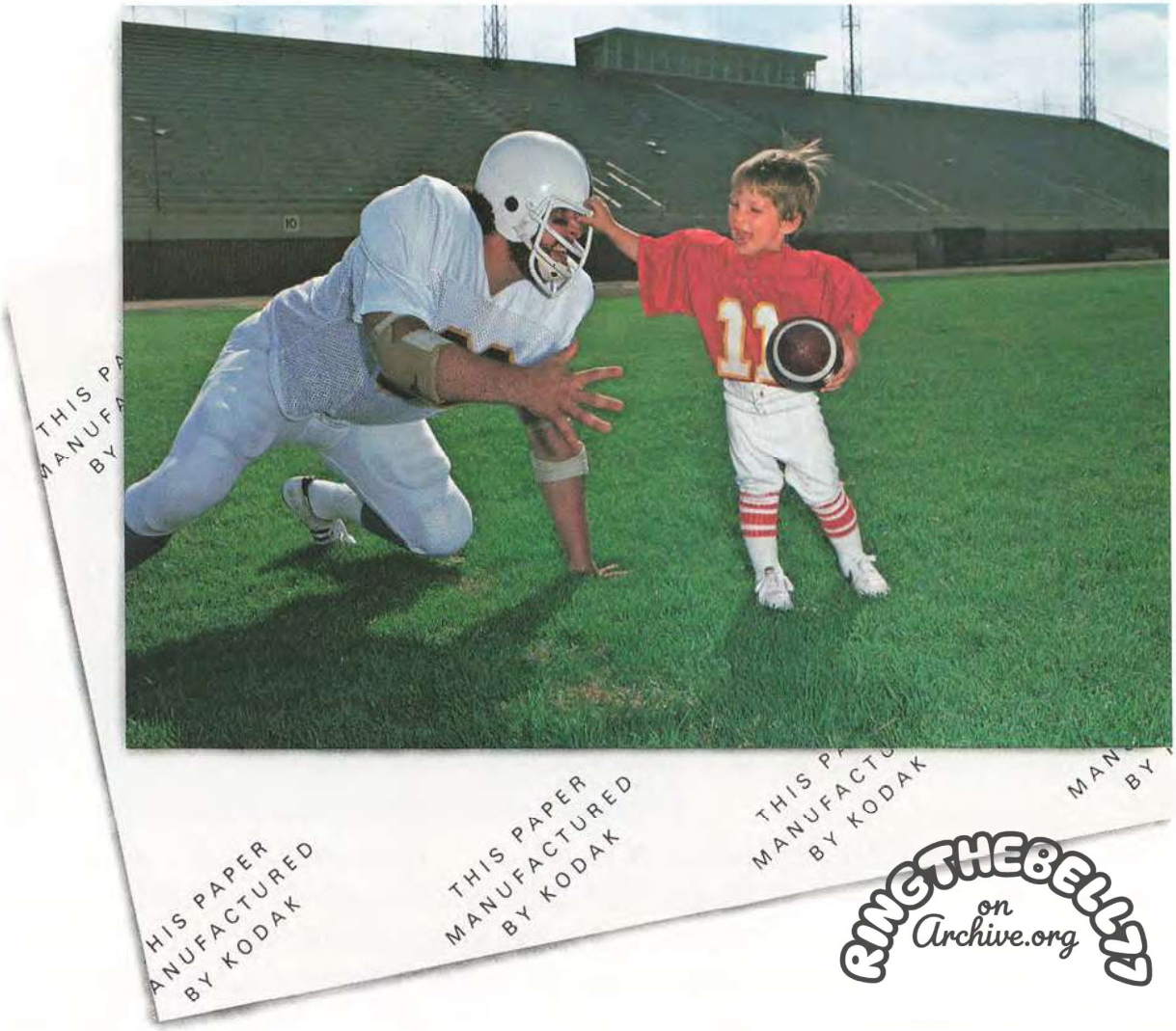

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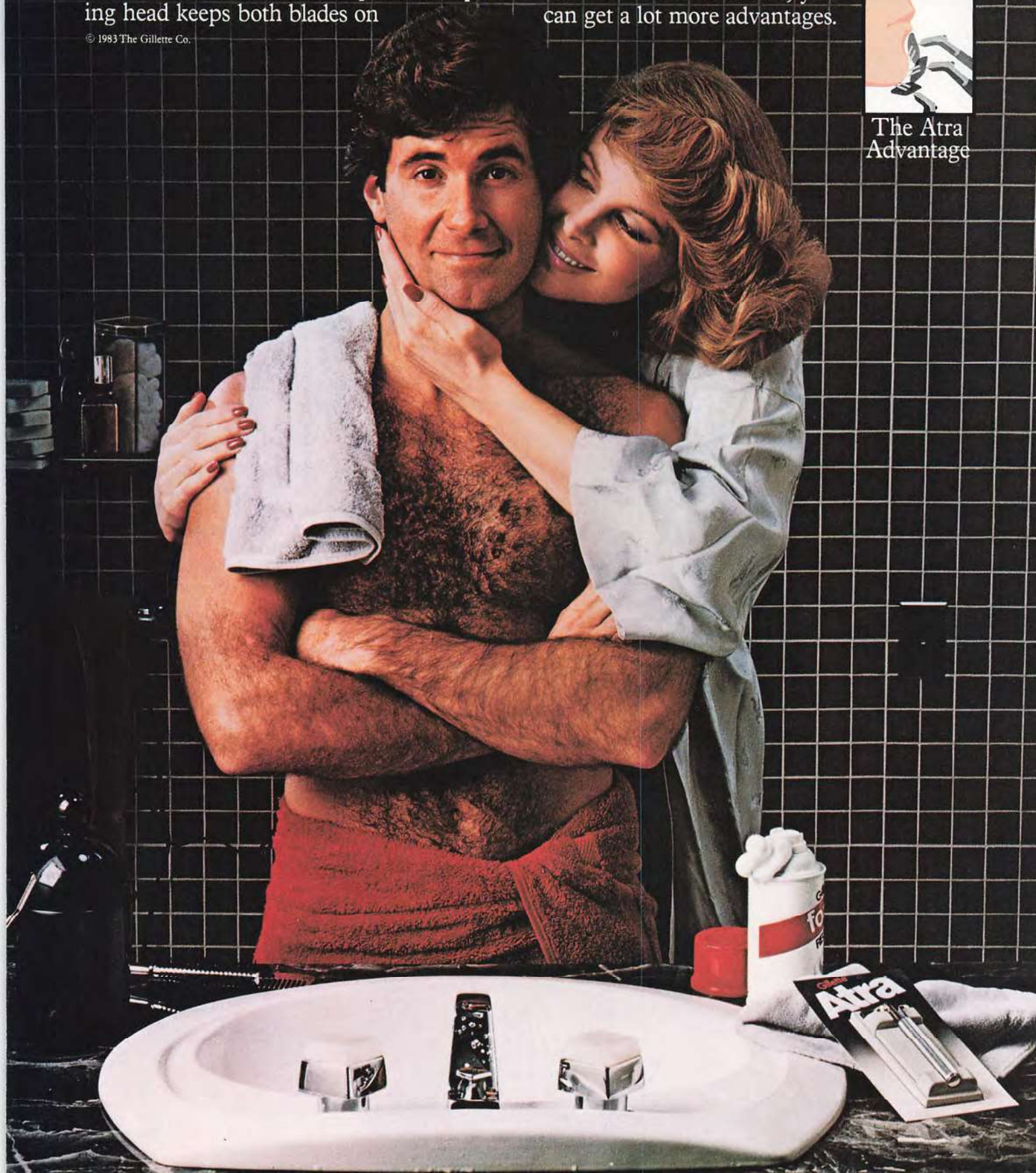
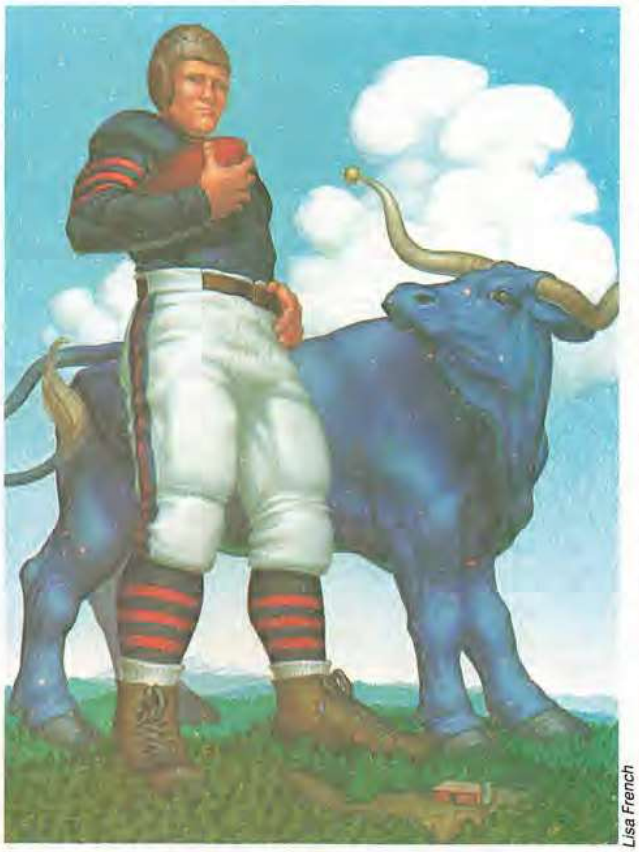


PAUL BUNYAN WITH A FOOTBALL

BRONKO NAGURSKI HAD THE STUFF OF LEGENDS.
BY JOHN WIEBUSCH


Lisa French

In the Gordian knot of real and unreal, of happened and might have happened, Bronko Nagurski is a legend, a man bigger than life when he played, a name bigger than life today.

His name. To say it is to say strength and power and hair-on-the-chest maleness. Bronko Nagurski. Treetop tall, able to leap football fields in a single bound, earth mover. Paul Bunyan in the midst of us.

Bronislaw (Bronko) Nagurski lives in International Falls, Minnesota, on the Canadian border. The Rainy River flows through International Falls five months of the year. The other seven months it is frozen rock-solid. International Falls is called the Icebox of the Nation. Men in plaid wool shirts with ruddy faces smile through their beers there and say, "You got to be hardy to live here."

Nagurski has been there all his life, for 75 winters and 75 summers. He has been there pumping gas in the station that bore his name until a decade ago. He has been there answering questions about where the smallmouth bass are hitting. He has been there in the big North Woods, leading a quiet life while legends grew around him.

Today, however, he's here in Tampa, making a rare trip away from his wintry seclusion to flip the coin before Super Bowl XVIII. Tomorrow he'll be back home in the northland, the intrusion from his football playing days over.

Red Grange can't swear the story is true. But the man who told it to him swears it was, and that's good enough for Grange.

"A few years ago," said Grange, who played with Nagurski on the Chicago Bears, "Doc Spears, Bronko's coach at the University of Minnesota, was in Florida visiting me. I asked him how he'd ever come across a guy like Bronko in a place like International Falls. Spears said that he had gone up there from Minneapolis to see another kid. He thought the kid's name was Smith. Spears told me that just outside of International Falls he saw this young kid pushing a plow. There was no horse or anything else—just this kid pushing a plow! Spears stopped the car and asked the kid just where he might find this Smith fellow. Well, Doc swears the kid with the plow just picked it up and and pointed in the direction. Doc knew that Smith or no Smith, he had to have this kid, too. The kid was Bronko Nagurski."

In three years with the University of Minnesota varsity, the teams Nagurski played with lost only four games, three of them by one point and one by two points.

But it is not the winning or the losing they remember. It is Nagurski. In those three years he played every position except center and quarterback, and, in his senior year, in 1929, famed sportswriter Grantland Rice named only 10 men to his All-America football team. Nagurski was named at two positions—tackle and fullback.

He joined the Chicago Bears of the National Football League in 1930, but he was preceded by his reputation. Already he was a folk hero. There was the story about how he ran six miles to and from high school every day in International Falls (even in the winter)...about how he had single-handedly lifted a truck off a dying man...about how he had rescued another man who'd been buried under a pile of logs at a sawmill.

The pros were disbelievers, and it is not difficult to see why. They sought softness in the legend early.

In 1930, the Green Bay Packers were the lords of professional football. They had Johnny Blood (McNally) to run the ball and a man-mountain tackle, Cal Hubbard, to clear a path. Hubbard weighed 250 pounds. He was a big man by the standards of any age, but four decades ago he was Herculean.

The story is told by Red Grange:

"The Bronk and I were on one side protecting the punter on fourth-down plays. Well, the game was getting along and the Packers were beating us and Hubbard passed me after one play and said, 'Next time you guys punt, let me by. I won't block the kick. I just want to get a shot at that Nagurski and see if he's as tough as they say he is.' So the next time we went into punt formation I let Hubbard get past me and I turned around to watch. I'm telling you, Hubbard socked the Bronk a good one, but the guy who went down was Hubbard himself. Hubbard caught up with me as we left the field. He said, 'The kid is as hard as they said he is.' "

In 1963, Nagurski was a charter member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He did not receive his Hall of

Fame ring until the following year, however. The reason for the delay was that the L.G. Balfour Co. had to make a size 19½ ring. Balfour officials say the ring is one of the largest ever made in the United States.

The late George Halas shook his head remembering Bronko. "I assure you that you will not see a more remarkable physical specimen anywhere," said the man who coached Nagurski as a professional. "He was six feet two inches and and he weighed two hundred thirty-four pounds and it was all—literally all—muscle, skin, and bone. He didn't have an ounce of fat on him. A lot of men have passed in front of me but none with a build like that man."

Beattie Feathers played with Nagurski. "He had the most incredible natural strength I've ever seen," Feathers said. "One time we were up in Green Bay working out on the Saturday afternoon before the game. We were all just running around and tossing the ball about when Halas called us into the huddle. The starting team gathered around Halas and he told us to line up in formation to run a few plays. I didn't see Bronko and I said to Halas, 'Coach, we don't have a fullback.' I didn't realize it, but Bronko was standing right behind me. Well, Bronko gave me what he thought was a friendly bop on the helmet, and it knocked me down. He was so big and so powerful I don't believe he knew how strong he really was."

Gene Ronzani was the Bears' quarterback for most of the Nagurski years. "Here I was coming out of Marquette," Ronzani said, "and I tell you, just the thought of playing with Bronko Nagurski scared the hell out of me. When I saw him I became more of a believer. Not only was he as big and strong as advertised and not only was he a humble fellow and an all-around good guy, but he was the second-fastest man on the Bears. And his toughness! He had a bad knee and sometimes he would come limping back to the huddle. I'd ask him if he wanted a time out and he'd say, 'Time out? Hell no, let's play football.' Then he would slap his knee on either side with that big hand of his—slapping the cartilage back in place. We'd shake our heads and away we'd go and Bronko would carry the ball."

The epic battles of the day were between Clarke Hinkle, fullback and linebacker for the Packers, and Nagurski, fullback and linebacker for the Bears. It was survival of the fittest then; it was mutual admiration later.

"I felt I could play football with anyone," Hinkle said, "and I was particularly anxious to go after Bronko because he was the best. The first time I came up against him I made the mistake of letting him come to me before I made the tackle—or tried to make it. I needed seven stitches to close up the cut on my chin. It was murder, but you had to go after him to be effective. If you didn't you were through."

In 1936, two members of the Pittsburgh team attempted to stop Nagurski from reaching the end zone. One man suffered a broken shoulder; the other was knocked out.

On the train carrying the Pittsburgh team home from Chicago, the Pirates (later the Steelers) played cards and talked about the Bears' fullback. Suddenly the train gave an unusually violent lurch and the bodies of football players were strewn in the aisles.

"Run for your lives," shouted halfback Warren Heller. "It's Nagurski!"

Once, in a game against the Portsmouth Spartans in 1933, Nagurski went 45 yards for the winning touchdown, sending two linebackers flying in different directions, running over the defensive halfback, and straight-arming the safety aside before colliding with the goal post and caroming into the brick wall at Wrigley Field in Chicago. "The last guy hit me awful hard," Nagurski said after he was revived.

Steve Owen, once the head coach of the New York Giants, said of Nagurski, "He's the only man I've ever seen who runs his own interference."

Lest you smile at fond remembrance, consider this from Beattie Feathers: "When we got near the goal line we didn't put any blockers ahead of Bronko. He was fast but he was not a quick starter and we didn't want to take a chance of him getting tripped up by his own blockers. . . ."

Gene Ronzani: "He had that strong forearm and enormous shoulders and he'd just stick his arm out and batter people out of the way."

Mel Hein, center-linebacker for the Giants: "Coaches always told you to tackle a big running back low, so I tried to tackle Bronko low the first time I faced him and he stampeded me. But if you tried to tackle him high, he kept right on going. The only way to bring him down was to have at least two tacklers. And often that didn't work."

The statistics of the early days of football were something less than official, and the yardage totals attributed to Nagurski only can be approximate. It is certain that he carried the ball more than 600 times and gained nearly 3,000 yards in his last seven seasons.

But is that the measure of the man? Hardly.

How do you measure his blocking? In the first 27 years of the NFL, only one man, Beattie Feathers, rushed for 1,000 yards in one season. Feathers gained 1,004 yards in 1934 for the Bears, and the men who were there claim Nagurski ran interference on almost every play.

How do you measure his passing ability? In 1933, for example, against the New York Giants in the NFL Championship Game, the big fullback threw for one touchdown and contributed to another on a 25-yard, game-winning pass/lateral play.

How do you measure the 60-minute player? "If I'd played one way," Nagurski once said, "I could have played another fifteen years."

Nagurski remains a man of basics, a man who does not demand much of life except a square deal. And he doesn't feel he's always gotten that. He feels his career was shorted. . .he feels that his days as a professional wrestler (he was an enormous attraction in the 1930s and 1940s) were degrading. . .he feels that he and other early players should be included in the Players Association pension plan (they are not).

In recent years he has had to undergo major surgery on his knees and he has been dogged by arthritis. He seldom grants interviews, choosing instead to guard his privacy.

He lives in International Falls with Eileen, his wife of more than 40 years. Their six children are grown and have gone out on their own.

"I have no regrets," he says. "Nothing I could change, anyway. I watch a lot of modern football and I wonder if I could be happy playing it because I could only play half the time. And I wonder what I'd be playing. I like to carry the ball, but I expect that they'd end up using me the same way the Bears did with Dick Butkus. I'd like that, too. I was very much like Butkus—big and mobile. Besides, I guess I liked defense a little better."

Now more than 50 pounds over his playing weight, he is asked to confirm a story about how he used to enter a room holding his wife out at arm's length.

"That's right," he says, "and I can still do it, only Eileen won't let me." ■

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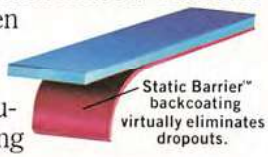

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NFL OLYMPIANS

A BRIEF HISTORY OF OLYMPIC ATHLETES
AS PRO FOOTBALL PLAYERS, AND VICE VERSA.
BY TED BROCK

In America, no sporting event rivals the impact of the Super Bowl. Internationally, no athletic competition matches the splendor and magnitude of the Olympics. Super Bowl XVIII, then, serves as a spectacular lead-in to this Olympic year.

Of course, differences between the Super Bowl and the Olympics abound. But over the 64-year history of the NFL, there have been some close connections —namely the marvelous athletes who were able to capitalize on their Olympic prowess and translate it to the football field.

In 1980, the New York Jets got their hands on the sort of athlete the NFL hadn't seen in nearly a decade. He came from the University of Texas and started 13 of the Jets' games, catching 25 passes from his wide receiver position. Three of the 25 were for touchdowns. Not only did he have world class speed, he had something more important: Olympic speed. And unlike the growing roster of athletes tagged with "world class" and other high-sounding labels, this guy, Johnny (Lam) Jones, had a gold medal to prove it.

Harvey Glance, Jones, Millard Hampton, and Steve Riddick got around Montreal's 400-meter track in 38.33 seconds back in July of 1976, winning the Olympic sprint relay by a decisive margin over East Germany (38.66).

James Owens was another American team member in 1976. When he ran his race, the 110-meter hurdles final, the field practically exploded off the pale green wall at the head of the sprint straightaway. Over the first hurdle, Owens clearly was the leader. Next to him, in the middle of the track, was Frenchman Guy Drut, the favorite, who had taken the silver medal four years earlier in Munich. At the second hurdle, Owens kept his lead.

At the third hurdle, again it was Owens whose forward foot touched down first among the eight finalists. In fact, it wasn't until the seventh barrier that Drut managed to pull a fraction of a stride ahead of Owens, but by this time the rest of the field also had drawn on the American. Owens, a quick starter and a notoriously shaky finisher, faded to sixth place over the last three hurdles, finishing in 13.73 seconds behind Drut (13.30), Alejandro Casanas of Cuba (13.33), Willie Davenport (13.38) and Charles Foster (13.41) of the United States, and Thomas Munkelt (13.44) of East Germany.

Owens—who later would become a wide receiver and running back with the San Francisco 49ers and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, returned to Los Angeles following the Games to resume his college athletic career as a sophomore at UCLA. After a year as a reserve running back, Owens replaced Wendell Tyler and teamed with Theotis Brown in one of college football's best ground attacks.

San Francisco head coach Bill Walsh, who came to the 49ers after a brief term at Stanford, had stood on the opposite sideline and marveled as Owens tore through Stanford defenses. When Walsh visited Los Angeles for a final look at Owens's receiving ability before the 1979 NFL draft, Owens recalls, "He seemed to be under the impression that I was another 'stone fingers,' but he was pleased to see that I had good hands."

"Some of the Olympic athletes who have come into the NFL in past years haven't had the greatest football skills," Owens said after being chosen in the second round of the draft. "For the most part, they've been trackmen first and football players second. I want to be an exception to that rule."

Five years as a running back (and occasionally as a wide receiver) in the NFL, two with San Francisco and three with Tampa Bay, dispelled any doubts about Owens's two-sport adaptability.

What James Owens wanted to overturn—trackmen first, football players second—wasn't always the rule. In fact, another hurdler may have helped point Owens's way. Clyde (Smackover) Scott was a halfback at the Naval Academy and the University of Arkansas who placed second in the high hurdles at the 1948 Olympic Games in London.

Smackover Scott's five-year NFL career included four seasons with Philadelphia (1949-1952) and one with Detroit (1953), a fortuitous bit of timing that put him on two NFL championship teams (Eagles in 1949 and Lions in 1953).

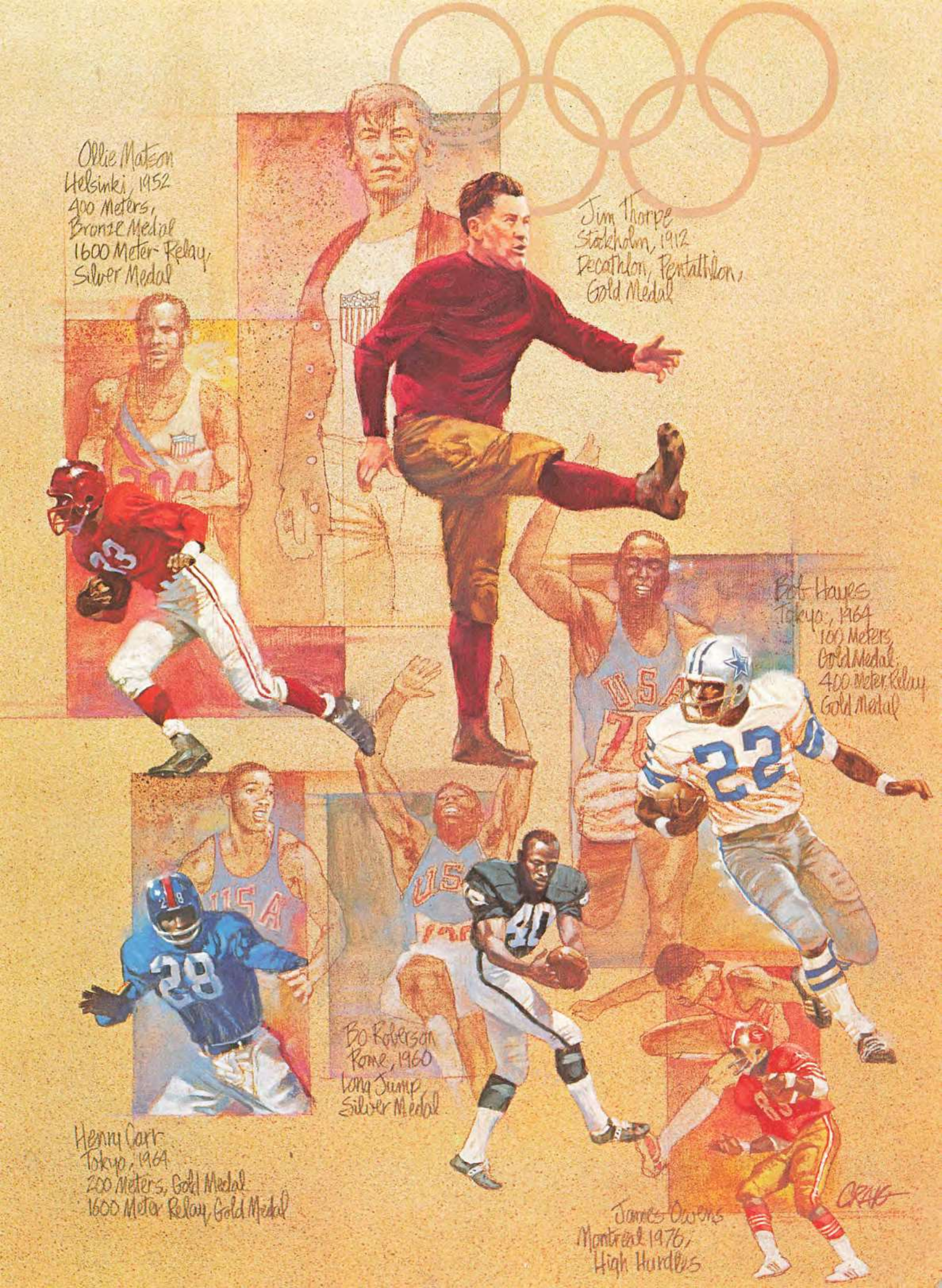
While Scott was beginning his second season with the Eagles, Ollie Matson was staging a minor upset with a third-place finish in the 1952 Olympic 400-meter dash at Helsinki, Finland. By then, Matson already had established himself as one of America's top football attractions, collegiate or professional.

The Chicago Cardinals chose him in the first round of the 1952 NFL draft. Matson had been an All-America at the University of San Francisco and the key figure in the Dons' undefeated season in 1951. In three years at USF, he carried the ball 547 times for 3,166 yards and scored 41 touchdowns.

"At Helsinki, my main advantage was strength," Matson said. "The Olympics test your ability to hold up over a three-day period. By the time the final came around, I still had my strength and my nine-foot stride."

Matson drew an outside lane. It wasn't until he came off the final turn that he saw most of the field for the first time in the race. At that point, he trailed only the eventual winner, George Rhoden of Jamaica, who in fact was the only one running outside Matson. "I could hear [Jamaican] Herb McKenley the whole way, and he caught me in the home straight."

Craig Walker


Ollie Matson
Helsinki, 1952
400 Meters,
Bronze Medal
1600 Meter Relay,
Silver Medal
Jim Thorpe
Stockholm, 1912
Decathlon, Pentathlon,
Gold Medal
Bob Hayes
Tokyo, 1964
100 Meters,
Gold Medal
400 Meter Relay
Gold Medal
Bo Roberson
Rome, 1960
Long Jump
Silver Medal
Henry Carr
Tokyo, 1964
200 Meters, Gold Medal
1600 Meter Relay, Gold Medal
James Owens
Montreal 1976,
High Hurdles

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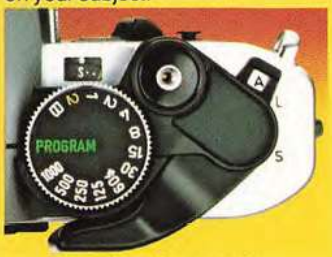

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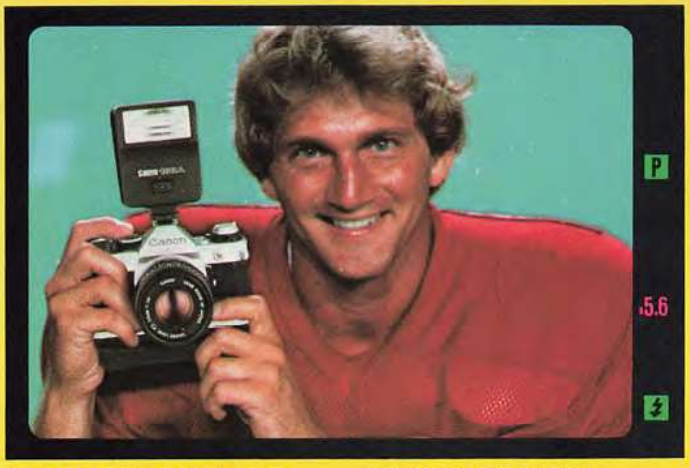

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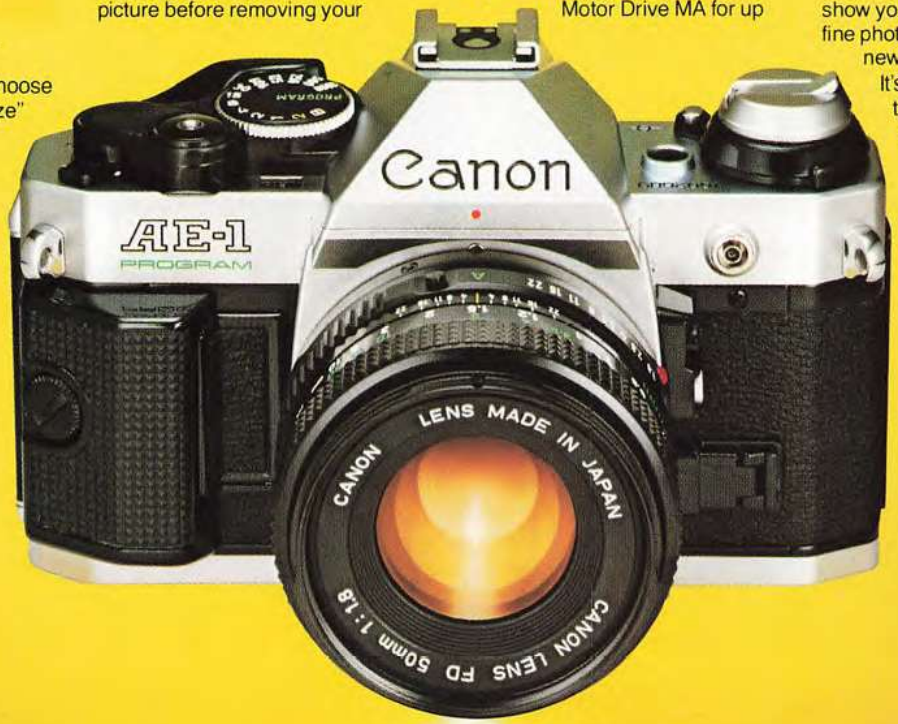

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Matson held off a third Jamaican, Arthur Wint, who had been the pre-Games favorite. The times for the medalists: Rhoden (45.9), McKenley (45.9), Matson (46.8).

Matson later ran the leadoff leg of the 1,600-meter relay, as the United States team finished second behind a world record performance by Jamaica.

The closing ceremonies were held the following day, but by that time Matson was airborne, trying to reach Chicago for the Chicago All-Star Game. "On the way to Soldier Field from the airport I learned I'd be playing defense that night," he said.

"They started Bobby Dillon against the Rams and had him covering Crazylegs Hirsch. Hirsch ate him up. Then they put me in. Hirsch didn't do much the rest of the game. Everybody had been talking how fast Hirsch was, but they'd forgotten that I had 9.5 speed."

It would be understating the case to say that Matson was voted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1972 because of his great versatility but there it is. He played the game for 14 years between 1952 and 1966, missing the 1953 season because of military service.

As a ball carrier, Matson never gained more than the 924 yards he posted in the 1956 season. In total, however, he retired with 12,844 combined yards. The prime of Matson's career was the period between 1954 and 1959. He made all-pro four of those seasons (1954-57) and in 1959 he was honored by the Los Angeles Rams, who gave up *nine* players to acquire him from the Cardinals.

Matson played out his career by spending four years in Los Angeles. ("There were internal problems that started at the top and filtered on down; we had records of 2-10, 4-7-1, 4-10, and 1-12-1, but when you beat the Bears in Chicago and Packers in Green Bay, you can't have a bad team.") He then moved to Detroit for one season, and Philadelphia for three more. With the Lions and the Eagles, he was used mainly as a kickoff return specialist.

Matson looks back on his career as a symbol of endurance, a benchmark during a time when pro football was going through its most pronounced transition. "I'm the only backfield guy who ever made all-pro both offensively and defensively," he said matter-of-factly, with swagger. "I always stayed in the best condition, year-round. I always knew what I wanted and what it would take."

In 1912, Jim Thorpe, the NFL's first Olympian, became the focal point of the furor over the distinction between amateurism and professionalism. The legendary Carlisle Indian won gold medals in both the decathlon and pentathlon at the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm. But when it was learned that he had played semipro baseball in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, for the princely sum of $25 a game, Thorpe's Olympic medals were taken away. Going against the practice that was popular with athletes of the time, Thorpe had played using his real name rather than an alias. (His medals were restored posthumously in 1983).

Thorpe's "big time" professional football career began in 1915, when he joined the Canton Bulldogs shortly before their first game with archrival Massillon. A skilled ball carrier, dropkicker, and punter, Thorpe accepted an offer sent him by Bulldogs manager Jack Cusack. The salary of $250 a game was enough to lure Thorpe away from his backfield coaching job at Indiana University and weekend duty with the Pine Village professional team, made up primarily of ex-Notre Dame players.

In 1916 the Canton Bulldogs won 10 consecutive games, yielded a total of just seven points, and became the self-proclaimed professional champions of the world.

In 1920, when the American Professional Football Association was formed in Canton, the club owners elected Thorpe president of the new league, which changed its name to the National Football League in 1922. Thorpe still was playing well for Canton in 1920, but he left the club in 1921 and appeared with a succession of teams, including the Oorang Indians of Marion, Ohio, whom he coached in 1922-23. Well into his thirties, Thorpe was able to serve primarily as a gate attraction with the Cleveland Indians, Oorang, the Toledo Maroons, the New York Giants, and with Canton again in 1926, his last season.

By that time, Amsterdam was preparing for the Games of the ninth modern Olympiad, to be held in 1928, and professional football had said a brief hello and goodbye to another Olympian, Harold (Brick) Muller, silver medalist in the high jump at the 1920 Games in Antwerp, Belgium.

Muller also had earned recognition as the first All-America from a West Coast school. He won the honor in both 1921 and 1922, playing end on the University of California Rose Bowl squads that defeated Ohio State 28-0 and tied Washington and Jefferson 0-0.

Muller's professional career, however, was quiet compared to his Olympic and collegiate accomplishments. He spent a single season (1926) with the Los Angeles Buccaneers. A co-coach and end for the club, he scored one touchdown and the Buccaneers, a team that played all its games on the road, placed sixth in the 22-team league.

The year 1926 also marked the swan song of another NFL Olympian, Sol Butler. A broad jumper, Butler had earned a trip to Antwerp in 1920 with a leap of 24 feet 8 inches in the U.S. trials. But on his opening jump in the Olympic competition, he went 21-8 and was forced to retire with a muscle injury. The lone jump was good for seventh place.

After leaving Rice University in 1922, Butler joined the backfield of the Rock Island Independents in 1923. He spent that season and part of 1924 with the Independents, then was shipped to the Hammond Pros for another part of 1924, the Akron Pros for the rest of 1924, the Canton Bulldogs in 1926, and, later that year, back to Hammond.

The Olympic Games of the 1930s —in Los Angeles (1932) and Berlin (1936)—included three competitors who made it into and out of pro football by 1940. Two athletes from the University of Kansas, tackle Pete Mehringer and all-purpose back Jim Bausch, competed in Los Angeles. A wrestler, Mehringer won the gold medal in the light heavyweight (191 pound) division. Bausch also won a gold medal, outscoring Finland's Akilles Jarvinen by nearly 200 points in winning the decathlon. Mehringer played for the Chicago Cardinals and the AFL's Los Angeles Bulldogs; Bausch was with the Cardinals and Cincinnati Reds.

Jack Torrance, a 6-foot 3-inch strongman from Louisiana State University, was everyone's pick to win the gold medal in the shot put at Berlin. In 1934, he had broken the world record three times, establishing a mark of 57 feet, 1 inch, which stood until 1948. But shortly before the Berlin competition, Torrance injured his arm and finished with a fifth-place throw of 50 feet, 5½ inches. In 1939, weighing a reported 314 pounds, Torrance reported to the Chicago Bears. Then 25, he showed the effects of inactivity and a short whirl at professional boxing. He trimmed 30

pounds and played the 1939 and 1940 seasons with the Bears, finishing his brief career in the 73-0 victory over Washington for the NFL title.

World War II interrupted the four-year succession of Olympic Games until 1948, and it wasn't until the 1950s that Olympic athletes visited the NFL again. Milt Campbell, proclaimed the world's greatest athlete after his decathlon victory at Melbourne, Australia, in 1956, joined the Cleveland Browns as a running back in 1957 but turned to teaching the following year and left the athletic spotlight.

Another gold medalist at Melbourne, intermediate hurdler Glenn Davis of Ohio State University, defended his title at Rome in 1960 and shortly afterward had a brief career as a receiver with the Detroit Lions. In both Olympics, Davis led American sweeps over the 400-meter barriers, winning in 50.1 in 1956 and 49.3 in 1960, an Olympic record. By 1960, Davis held the world record for the event (49.2) plus the world record for the 440-yard dash (45.7). His first Olympic victory, Davis said, "changed my living style in that now I had to live up to what people expected." In Rome, he ran the third leg on the victorious 1,600-meter relay team.

Davis returned from Rome and received a call from Detroit general manager Edwin Anderson, who signed the 25-year-old two-time Olympic champion after a brief tryout.

Davis spent two seasons with Detroit (1960-61), and played in the four-receiver "Zephyr Offense" that also featured Jim Gibbons, Gail Cogdill, and Terry Barr. The first time the Zephyr was used in 1961, Davis caught four passes against the Los Angeles Rams. He caught four more against San Francisco the following week, but an ankle injury kept him sidelined for the remainder of the season, and he finished the year with nine catches and a 13.2-yard average.

As Davis's career whispered, zephyr-like, to a close, other veterans of the 1960 Olympics were testing the pro football tradewinds. Among them, only long jumper Bo Roberson found the game hospitable. Roberson, silver medalist by three-eighths of an inch (he and Ralph Boston both eclipsed the Olympic record in Rome with jumps of 26 feet 7¼ inches and 26 feet 7⅝ inches) returned and signed with the San Diego Chargers of the American Football League. Roberson spent six seasons in the AFL as an all-purpose back with the Chargers (1961), the Oakland Raiders (1962-65), Buffalo Bills (1965), and Miami Dolphins (1966).

Statistically, the former all-Ivy League flash from Cornell enjoyed his best year as a Raider in 1962, when he rushed for 270 yards. As a pass receiver, Roberson caught 29 for 583 yards, an average of 20.1 yards. And as a kickoff returner, he brought back 27 for 748 yards, an average of 27.7 yards.

"I remember some hellacious battles he had with guard Walt Sweeney of the Chargers," said Al LoCasale, then personnel director of the Chargers and now executive assistant with the Los Angeles Raiders. "Finally, Sweeney caught him one time, knocked him out of bounds on a kickoff, and told him very specifically what he would do to Bo if Bo made him look bad again. From then on, every time Bo saw Sweeney's number coming at him, he headed for the sideline."

Unlike Roberson, two other speed merchants from Rome failed to convert their track skills to usable football tools.

Ray Norton of San Jose State was picked by *Sports Illustrated* and practically everyone else as the man to beat in the 100- and 200-meter dashes in 1960. In both events, he finished out of the money, so to speak, sixth in the 100 (10.4) and sixth in the 200 (20.9). There were six men in each final.

Frank Budd of Villanova also made the 100-meter final and managed to edge Norton with a 10.3 finish to place fifth.

Budd later became the first man to run 9.2 for 100 yards when he won the American amateur championships in 1962. Shortly afterward, despite having had no football background at Villanova, he joined the Philadelphia Eagles for the 1962 season. In 1963, he closed his quick career as a member of the Washington Redskins. Budd caught five passes in each season.

The San Francisco 49ers had high hopes for Norton when they drafted him prior to the 1960 Olympic Games, but the results were as disappointing as the other clubs' experiments with Budd.

"We tried Ray at running back, at receiver, on kickoff returns, practically everything," said Red Hickey, then head coach of the 49ers and now a scout with the Dallas Cowboys. "He was hard-working, he had a superior attitude, he listened, he tried, he gave everything he had. He just wasn't a natural football player."

If Hickey's attempt to recycle the flat-out speed of Ray Norton had been a disappointment, his next project (this time as the receivers coach at Dallas) was nothing short of a smash success. Bob Hayes became, in the 1960s and early 1970s, the standard by which sprinters-turned-football players were judged. Even without his track background, Hayes would have made an indelible mark on pro football. Sprinting was his competitive ace. Sprinting and psyching.

What If?

What if an American team had gone to the Moscow Olympics in 1980? What if Renaldo Nehemiah, now a wide receiver with the San Francisco 49ers and still the world record holder in the 110-meter hurdles (12.93 seconds), had competed in Moscow and had come home with the anticipated gold medal?

By the same token, what if Chicago Bears' wide receiver Willie Gault had taken advantage of his first full year of training without interference from football...all for the chance at medals in the hurdles and/or sprints in Los Angeles this summer?

Nehemiah himself probably has spent less time bothering with the "what if's" than most Olympic- and NFL-watchers of the last few years. For him, the Olympics have become part of a broader perspective.

"It's a feat that everyone with the opportunity ought to go for," Nehemiah says of Olympic participation. "But it's overplayed. Everyone thinks you can get more out of it than is really there. Even if I had gone to the 1980 Games, I wanted to look toward the future."

Bill Smith

Willie Gault

Tony Tomsic

Renaldo Nehemiah

"The Olympics were a year late, and I was a year early," says Gault, who, after a fourth year of football at the University of Tennessee, was the world's third-ranked high hurdler in 1982 (his best mark of the year was a winning time of 13.26 at the national amateur championships), and finished third in the World Track and Field Championship at Helsinki last August.

"I knew I had a great chance for a medal in the Olympic hurdles or even the sprints," Gault says. "But I felt it was my duty to make things secure for my wife and my family back home."

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Was there a defensive back in the NFL who didn't know that in the summer of 1963, Hayes had become the first person ever to run 100 yards in 9.1?

In 1964, at Tokyo, Hayes, rumbling every which way with a stride that resembled a cement mixer on the loose, destroyed the 100-meter field with a 10.0 electronic clocking (9.9 hand-timed). He picked up another gold medal when he anchored the U.S. 400-meter relay team in a 39.0 world record performance.

"When he came to us [from Florida A&M] in 1965, I didn't know whether we were getting a football player or the world's fastest human in shoulder pads," said former Dallas quarterback Don Meredith.

By the time Hayes had made the adjustment to pro football, the consensus was that he was the single wide receiver most responsible for the change in pass defenses. In his rookie season, Hayes (the only Olympian ever to play in a Super Bowl—Games V and VI) caught 46 passes for 1,003 yards, leading the NFL in average yards per catch (21.8) and touchdowns (12). He also ran back kickoffs for 450 yards and punts for 153. For the rest of his career, depending on where the Cowboys chose to emphasize his skills, Hayes was at or near the top of his statistical categories.

"When he got to Dallas," Hickey said. "Bobby could catch the ball well enough, but he was still what we called a 'crude runner.' To make the transition, he had to learn two things. First, to soften up his hands. Second, to relax; for example, to be able to go into the air to get a ball without tensing up.

"Before long they had him double-covered, which of course meant that the rest of the secondary loosened up considerably. At first, Bobby had trouble with the first guy coming up on his nose and hitting him. But one thing was certain: They couldn't afford to leave only one man out there on him."

Meredith: "All the cornerbacks we played had a different look in their eyeballs when they lined up opposite him.

"Bob had the ability to run as fast as he had to. I remember the New York Giants had drafted a track star as a defensive back. On one play, Bobby got two steps on the guy and they ran a straight dash from there. It was spectacular."

In Don Meredith's story of Bob Hayes versus the New York Giants track star, the track star was Henry Carr, a teammate of Hayes's at the Tokyo Olympics and a gold medalist in two sprint events. Carr set an Olympic record in the 200-meter dash with a time of 20.3, a tenth off his own world record. He came back to anchor the winning 1,600-meter relay team in a world record 3:00.7.

Carr had undergone his conversion to the defensive backfield while playing at Arizona State, having begun as a running back and flanker. He intercepted seven passes during his three years with the Giants, turning in a high mark of four in 1966.

Hayes was in his fourth season with the Cowboys when the 1968 Olympic Games were held in Mexico City. The U.S. again dominated the short dashes, and the winners of the 100- and 200-meter races again joined the NFL. But for Jim Hines, who won the 100 in a world record 9.98, then came back to anchor the winning 400-meter relay team in a world record 38.2, and Tommie Smith, gold medalist in the 200 with a world record 19.83, pro football was a gamble every time one foot went in front of the other.

Hines "had hands like boards" according to the scouting reports. Miami drafted him, and in three years there he caught six of the eight passes thrown to him.

Smith, whose ability to "hit a gear" (i.e., accelerate quickly in a sprint race) gave him a chance of becoming another Hayes-type deep threat, never got comfortable in a contact environment and spent most of his one year (1969) on the Cincinnati Bengals' taxi squad.

In 1972 Larry Burton, a sophomore wide receiver at Purdue University, joined the Boilermakers' track team as a way of conditioning himself for the upcoming football season. When Burton broke the Big Ten indoor record for the 300-yard dash in his first competition, coach Dave Rankin advised him he was Olympic material.

Burton made the American team in late June, having won the NCAA 200-meter championship en route. His "football training" took him all the way to the Olympic 200-meter final. In Munich, with 20 meters to go, Burton held third place behind Valery Borzov of the Soviet Union and Larry Black of the United States. But Italy's Pietro Mennea put on a closing burst for the bronze medal, and Burton finished fourth, timed in 20.37. Borzov's 20.00 won the fastest low-altitude 200-meter race in history

"It's a thrill to even talk about it," said Burton, not long after signing as a free agent with San Diego in November of 1979 after three lean seasons with the New Orleans Saints. "You talk about *pressure*. You've got to look into the bowels of your soul. You're representing *the country*. I think competing at a world class level in track did a lot for my confidence as a football player. If Lloyds of London had taken odds on my making the Olympic final, they would have been astronomical."

Gerald Tinker made the 1972 U.S. 400-meter relay team by virtue of a fourth-place finish in the 100 meters at the Olympic trials.

When sprinters Eddie Hart and Rey Robinson both missed their semifinal heats in Munich and were disqualified from the 100, Tinker's role in the relay expanded in dramatic fashion. Not only was this Tinker's one chance for an Olympic medal, Hart's and Robinson's hopes also had been reduced to one race. Talk about pressure.

Robinson led off and gave the baton to Robert Taylor, who executed a near-perfect pass to Tinker in the backstretch. Tinker-to-Hart was another excellent exchange, and when the American anchorman was clear of the passing zone he was already adding to the three-tenths-of-a-second lead Tinker and the others had provided him. Hart cruised home ahead of Borzov, the Russian anchorman, and the winning time (38.19) was a world record.

Tinker gave his gold medal to his mother, saying, "She deserves it more than I do," and went off for a try at pro football. Once a wide receiver at Memphis State and Kent State, he caught 27 passes in three years (1974-76) with Atlanta and Green Bay.

Now, the way these time-tunnel stories usually wrap up is this: The narrator of the article asks this question, "Where are they now?" Well, Ollie Matson is an administrator on the staff of the Los Angeles Sports Arena. Tommie Smith coaches track at Santa Monica College in California. Clyde (Smackover) Scott is an insurance executive in Little Rock, Arkansas. Glenn Davis is a school teacher in Barberton, Ohio. . . .

The main thing here, though, is that all these men took part in the Olympics, and they all played pro football. After they did that, they learned one thing, if they didn't know it already. What they learned was, as Ollie Matson said back in 1948, "you can't eat medals." ■

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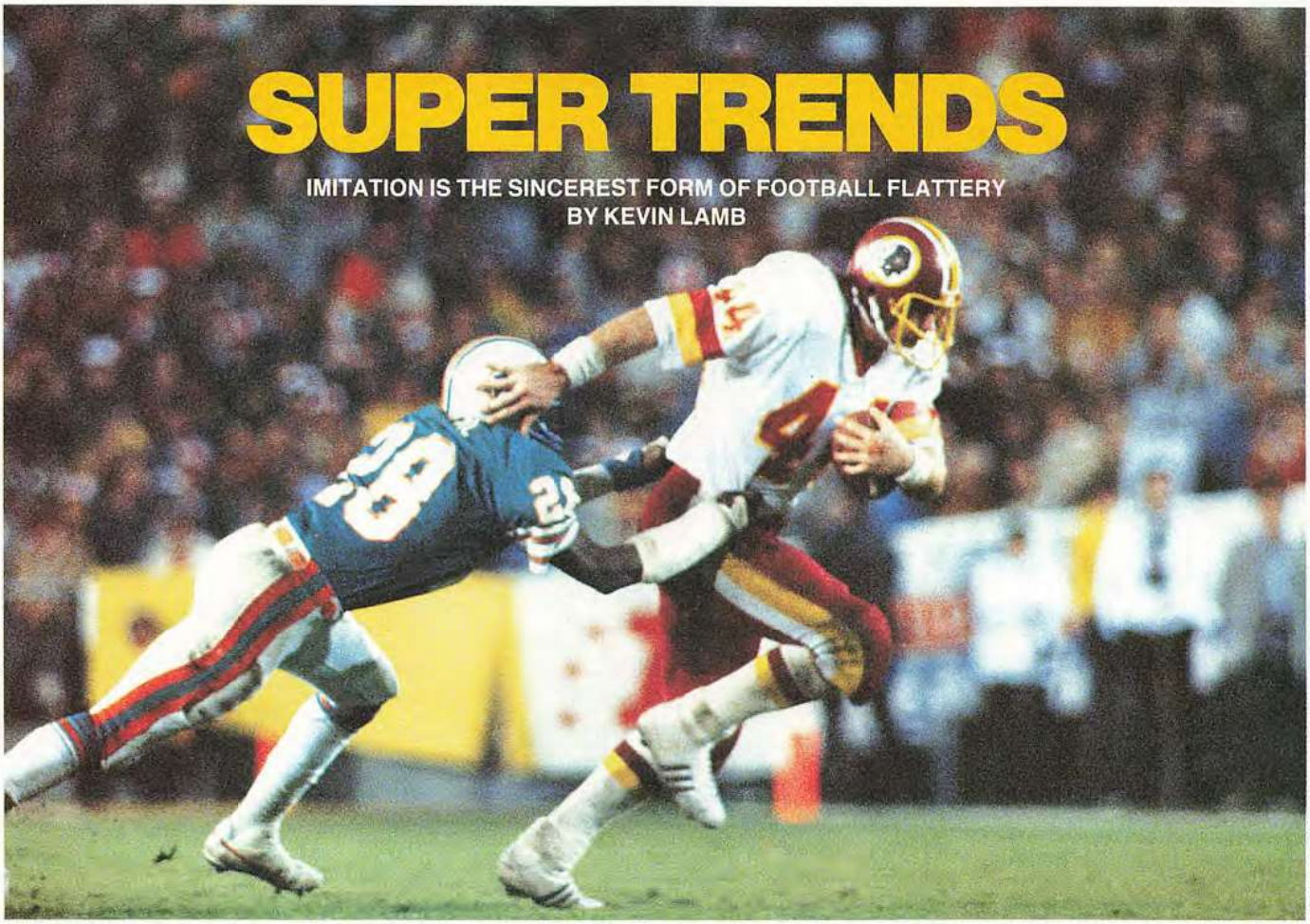
SUPER TRENDS

IMITATION IS THE SINCEREST FORM OF FOOTBALL FLATTERY

BY KEVIN LAMB



Al Messerschmidt

The Super Bowl doesn't start game trends so much as it markets them. Super Bowl XVII, last year, for example, was a national billboard for the one-back offense. But it wasn't new. Teams had fiddled with one-back formations for decades. The Washington Redskins were the first team to make the single back the centerpiece of a whole offensive system, but they didn't just unveil it for the Super Bowl, like a new dress on Academy Awards night. They had used it for more than a season and a half, and had won 19 of 23 games with it by the time they reached the Super Bowl.

But it took the Super Bowl showcase to make the single-back offense a phenomenon. In fact, it took winning the Super Bowl. There are any number of reasons for using a one-back offense, but only winning the Super Bowl could make it The Thing To Do.

Like the one-back "Ace" set, a trend is already well underway before it basks in the glow of the Super Bowl spotlight. San Francisco 49ers head coach Bill Walsh was proclaimed a genius for winning Super Bowl XVI with a short-passing game that actually was quite similar to one the Minnesota Vikings had been using since the early 1970s. The Vikings also may have been the first recent team to use a single back, as they did with Chuck Foreman in 1975.

The Super Bowl made the single-back offense a phenomenon.

"The Super Bowl highlights teams that have been successful in some area," says Vikings head coach Bud Grant. "It goes way back to when Green Bay ran the power sweep. They had success with it. They were a good football team. That doesn't mean other teams weren't doing the same thing. They just didn't have as many good players."

In fact, the Green Bay sweep was an example of a trend on the downswing when it reached the Super Bowl. Coaches don't just copy innovations. They counter them. "By the time something gets to the Super Bowl," Grant says, "coaches already are making adjustments to stop it." Building an offense around the power sweep in 1968 was comparable to buying stock today in video games just as home computers are taking off.

"Like Chuck Noll says, 'Don't get in on the bottom end of trends. Be the innovator,'" warns Grant. "Don't be running the Green Bay sweep after everybody's figured out how to stop it."

The Packers so thoroughly dominated pro football through the first two Super Bowls that defenses, in constructing a sort of Maginot Line to stop them, left themselves vulnerable to the next trend. It would be the flip side of Packers simplicity: the multiple offense.

Obvious as that seems now, coaches are cautious by nature. They may plagiarize each other's playbooks shamelessly, but they're hardly reckless about it. They do it more like television producers, waiting until big numbers tell them it is safe. And the big numbers come only from the win column.

One of the modern game's primary architects was former Kansas City Chiefs head coach Hank Stram, who was asked by columnist Murray Olderman in January, 1970, to forecast NFL trends for the dawning decade.

"I told him I thought the sixties were a decade of simplicity and I thought the seventies would be a decade of variety," Stram says now. And he went on to make the following points:

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• That although only the Dallas Cowboys and Kansas City were using the I-formation at the time, it would be part of all offenses in the future.
• That teams would become more and more multiple in their use of formations.
• That a quarterback's mobility was going to be nearly as important as his throwing ability.
• That offensive motion would become increasingly common, especially by the tight ends.

Stram was doing all those things, of course. But he was not consciously designing a legacy. "We never did anything with the idea of revolutionizing anything," he says. "We just did the things we thought would help us win."

It became clear that Stram was right about the I-formation, which gives a ball carrier a better view for adjusting his path; it proved ideal for a run-oriented offense against a 4-3 defense. The tailback would run through an inside hole and cut away from the middle linebacker. He had a better angle for taking pitchouts around the corner. A team could base its offense around the I-formation until defenses sprouted a second inside linebacker and offenses put a higher premium on having maximum players near the line for instant availability in pass patterns.

The number of formations proliferated, often as window dressing to disguise an offense's intentions from the defense. Washington has taken the principle to its current extreme, with quarterback Joe Theismann estimating the Redskins have about 500 formations. ("We have no 'basic' formation," he jokes.) Multiple formations actually simplify matters for the offense. Instead of needing a lot of plays, the Redskins run relatively few plays and make them look like a lot by running them from different formations.

Given all those different sets, coaches decided there had to be a more reliable way to protect the quarterback than simply by trying to block pass rushers. They turned to what Stram had called the "moving pocket." Instead of retreating seven steps for every pass, quarterbacks began using three-step drops, five-step drops, roll-outs, sprintouts, play-action passes. These days, a seven-step drop is becoming rare.

As for men in motion, offenses hardly ever just line up and snap the ball anymore, except near the goal line or on short-yardage downs. Men in motion have been the sauce on the pasta for every significant new formation, from the T of the 1940s to the single-back of the 1980s.

A tight end in motion changes the offense's strong side, which alters the defense's coverage. Defenses in the sixties even assigned their linebackers, cornerbacks, and safeties to the strong (the side with the tight end) or weak side. So when Kansas City moved one tight end against Chicago in a 1967 preseason game, the Bears' defense had to move

James F. Flores

Green Bay built an offense around the power sweep in 1968.

six people. The Chiefs' 66-24 victory was perhaps the first real step toward AFL-NFL parity.

By Super Bowl IV, none of what the Chiefs' offense did was radical. Their opponents in that game, the Vikings, did a lot of it, too. But Kansas City was at the forefront, and won the game 23-7. It pays to be first.

Stram's so-called "Offense of the Seventies" actually started in 1960 in Dallas, where two new teams had hired rookie coaches. Stram brought to the Chiefs' forerunners, the AFL's Dallas Texans, the fresh perspective of a college coach. Tom Landry brought to the Dallas Cowboys the perspective of a defensive coach.

"I devised an offense with multiple sets because I thought it was the best way to beat the best defenses of those days," Landry says. "We started shifting and moving then, too. It made it hard for the defenses to determine what we were going to do. Of course, there's a lot more of it now, but the only advantage of multiple sets even today is to keep the defense off balance."

Despite their motley collection of expansion personnel, the Cowboys were among the NFL scoring leaders by their third season. They won the Eastern Conference championship in their seventh. But they could not wrestle the NFL crown away from Green Bay; the Packers remained the trendsetters.

The Texans/Chiefs had even more spectacular success with their multiple offense. They won two AFL championships in their first seven seasons. But they played in the wrong league. It took Super Bowl IV and a victory against the establishment to give the multiple offense the NFL stamp of approval.

If there is a prototype of a trend that used the Super Bowl as its springboard, it is the three-man defensive line. The Miami Dolphins were the first modern pro team to use it frequently, and they beat the Washington Redskins 14-7 in Super Bowl VII—the first season they used it. Eleven years later, in 1983, all but 7 of the 28 NFL teams used three linemen in their principal first-down defenses, and 4 of those often used odd fronts, putting someone over the center.

In Miami's case, necessity was the mother of invention. The Dolphins couldn't keep their defensive ends healthy during training camp in 1972. After three of their six preseason games, they had two defensive ends. They also had a linebacker named Bob Matheson, who had played end at Cleveland before coming to Miami the previous year. So defensive coordinator Bill Arnsparger made a hybrid of Matheson. He put him on the defensive line, as the weakside end where there would not be a tight end in his way. But he had him stand up like a linebacker. Arnsparger put his three defensive linemen over the tackles and center and called the alignment his "53" defense, after the number on Matheson's jersey.

The Dolphins opened that season at Kansas City, in the Chiefs' first regular season game at Arrowhead Stadium and a rematch of the Dolphins' overtime playoff victory in the league's longest game the previous Christmas. "We ended up using that defense sixty percent of the time," says Matheson, now Miami's special teams coach. With it, the Dolphins won their first of 18 in a row (17 in 1972), 20-10.

The three-man line was exclusively a pass defense at first. Matheson could either blitz, giving a standard four-man rush, or he could drop into coverage, creating a fifth short zone to go with three deep ones.

The 3-4 defense didn't institutionalize zone coverage, but it helped make zone coverage popular. It had been radical when Stram started using it in 1960, simply because he had coached nothing else. Despite some success by the Tex-

ans, zone coverage remained rare into the seventies. But when Miami showed it was possible to pressure the quarterback with just three rush men, the eighth man available for coverage made zones much more attractive.

A momentary digression is necessary. Zone defenses reached their zenith in a double-zone formation that most NFL teams simply called the "Pittsburgh zone." They all were using it. Some teams even had used it before the Steelers. But as Landry says, "They were the best in the league at it."

The double zone covered outside receivers both short and deep. Cornerbacks rolled up to greet wide receivers at the line of scrimmage, where they began beating them up as soon as the ball was snapped. "It was hard to even get your receivers into the pattern," 49ers head coach Bill Walsh said later. The cornerback risked missing the receiver and losing a step on him, but it wasn't dangerous since there was a safety behind him.

The Pittsburgh Steelers took much of the guesswork out of pass defense in Super Bowl IX by holding the Vikings to 17 yards rushing, thus assuring that Minnesota would pass. Even in Super Bowl X, when Dallas had moderate running success, the Steelers intercepted Roger Staubach three times and held the Cowboys' offense to 10 points before dropping back into their Prevent defense in the final three minutes.

The problem for the rest of the league became how to beat the Steelers, who won four Super Bowls in a six-year period and might have won all six if not for some costly injuries. That, says Grant, is why Cincinnati general manager Paul Brown "spearheaded the rule change" that prohibited defenders from hitting receivers beyond five yards. Brown was in the Steelers' division.

The double zone still is used occasionally, but it is generally avoided because so many teams now have three deep threats. After promoting the trend by winning, the Steelers became so dominant with it that it was practically legislated away from them.

Now back to the evolution of the 3-4. Three years before Miami's "53" reached the center ring, Kansas City had been the first Super Bowl defense to play consistently with a man on the center. Against four-man lines, centers did not have to be big or strong. They blocked middle linebackers, not linemen, so they had to be quick and agile. Minnesota's Mick Tingelhoff was helmet-to-helmet with either 287-pound tackle Buck Buchanan or 265-pound tackle Curley Culp. Minnesota gained only 67 yards rushing.

Vernon Biever

"What Kansas City had was the Defense of the Seventies."

"What they had was the 'Defense of the Seventies,'" says Mike Adamle, a Chiefs fullback in the early seventies and now a television reporter in Chicago.

But the three-man line did not grow out of its incubator until Arnsparger, in classic evolutionary fashion, had Matheson stand up instead of starting a play on all fours. "Why would you want to have your hand on the ground?" Arnsparger says now. "You can still rush the passer standing up. And you also can drop better into coverage and see better against the run."

As the "53" defense developed, the Dolphins started moving Matheson around, the way they now move A.J. Duhe and the Los Angeles Raiders have used Ted Hendricks for years. "I might be over the tight end or even an inside lineman, and I'd blitz from that position," Matheson says.

Arnsparger, who was named head coach at LSU last month, recalls the 3-4 having considerable impact on Miami's Super Bowl VII victory. When Matheson hurried a pass from Redskins quarterback Billy Kilmer late in the first half, linebacker Nick Buoniconti intercepted it and returned it 32 yards to the Redskins' 27, setting up the touchdown that gave Miami a 14-0 lead. In the fourth quarter, Washington had driven to Miami's 10-yard line when Matheson unexpectedly dropped into coverage. Arnsparger can't be sure the move confused Kilmer into throwing an interception to Jake Scott. But he can't argue with what Kilmer said after the game: "Interceptions were the big difference."

In Super Bowl VIII, Miami used three linemen and Matheson much of the game. "It really helped against the run," Matheson said. The success did not go unnoticed.

By Super Bowl XV, Oakland and Philadelphia became the first two teams to use the 3-4 in the same Super Bowl. Interestingly, the defense had evolved by then from its pass defense origins to mainly a run defense. Three pass rushers could keep a quarterback honest through the mid-seventies, when pass blockers couldn't straighten their elbows or open their hands. But the 1978 rule changes made pass blocking easier. With more pass rushers required, even staunch 3-4 teams have gone to four-man lines on passing downs.

The 3-4 defense can credit its staying power to its being a better foundation for multiple defenses than the 4-3. Multiple defenses have grown alongside multiple offenses, to the point where teams use as many as 10 different fronts and 60 coverages in a season.

The Jets gave a hint of what was to come as early as Super Bowl III, when offensive innovator Weeb Ewbank had begun installing multiple defenses for the same reason Landry, with a defensive background, installed multiple offenses. "If I know what your coverage is going to be, my offense can wear you out," Ewbank would tell his own staff.

Of course, no matter how multiple an offense is, it won't be as effective without a multi-talented quarterback. When Staubach started playing, a scrambling quarterback was considered more a nuisance than a new wave. "No question about that," says Landry, Staubach's coach at Dallas. It was downright dangerous for a quarterback to leave the pocket and scamper about where anyone could take a shot at him.

Besides, scrambling quarterbacks had been for losers. It was appropriate for Fran Tarkenton to dash to and fro when the Vikings were a struggling expansion team, but the quarterback who took them to Super Bowl IV was Joe Kapp. Kapp was less a scrambler than a bulldozer, and even that style was frowned upon.

So Landry was not inclined to yell "Go, Roger, go," when Staubach began his galivanting. He was more inclined to cringe. He understood, though.

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"Roger couldn't read defenses too well at first," Landry says.

It didn't take Staubach too long to learn. He led them to 10 straight victories in 1971, including a 24-3 win over Miami in Super Bowl VI, where he threw two touchdown passes and was named most valuable player.

As Landry recalls, Staubach toned down his running after the next season, which he missed almost entirely after being injured in a preseason game against the Los Angeles Rams. Still, Staubach averaged 295 yards and 49 carries a year in 1973-75. In an era when pass rushers dominated, it became increasingly evident that a moving target not only had a better chance of getting a pass off, but perhaps was safer.

Through the late-seventies, careers flourished for Terry Bradshaw, Archie Manning, Ken Anderson, Bert Jones, Brian Sipe, Jim Zorn, and Doug Williams—none of them shackled to the pass pocket. Tarkenton returned to the Vikings from the Giants and took them to three more Super Bowls.

"A mobile quarterback is even an advantage today," Landry says, citing San Francisco's Joe Montana and Washington's Joe Theismann, both mobile quarterbacks who led their teams to victories in the last two Super Bowls.

Montana and Theismann don't venture beyond the line of scrimmage as often as Staubach did (though earlier in his career Theismann was known as "The Mad Scrambler"), but they are very capable of running past the first-down stick against stubborn pass coverages on third-and-long. Their threat to run keeps pass rushers at bay. And their ability to escape trouble, staying afoot an extra second or two, not only makes them nearly impossible to sack but keeps them from having to throw before they want to.

Landry put Staubach's mobility to another use in 1975, when he had his quarterback take snaps five yards behind the center in the Spread formation, more commonly called the Shotgun. It wasn't new. San Francisco coach Red Hickey had installed the Shotgun as the 49ers' principal formation in late 1960, using it as a complement to the Single Wing, with the quarterback running.

The 49ers won four of their last five games that year and four of their first five in 1961 until they went to Chicago, which beat them 31-0 and showed the NFL how to stop the Shotgun. The Bears simply moved middle linebacker Bill George up to the nose of the center, who was not accustomed to blocking someone at close range and had his hands full with the long snap.

When Landry resurrected the Shotgun a few years later, he used it for passing. "I couldn't see why, in a third-down situation, you should put your quarterback under center and have him run back seven yards when everybody in the park knew he was going to pass," Landry says. Specifically, the Shotgun protected his quarterback from the blitz and, ironically, a team Landry designed it for was the Bears. "They were a strong blitzing team," Landry says. "We didn't have too good a team then. We went into the Spread so we could see the blitzes coming."

Malcolm Emmons

From the Shotgun, Staubach kept Super Bowl X lively.

As Dallas improved throughout the sixties, Landry shelved the Spread but dusted it back off in 1975. The Cowboys were a team in transition, with 12 rookies. They had missed the playoffs in 1974 for the first time in nine years.

They didn't win their division in 1975, but they became the first NFL wild card team to reach the Super Bowl. (Kansas City won Super Bowl IV as a second-place team from the AFL before the wild card concept was established.) From the Shotgun, Staubach threw the desperate last-minute pass to Drew Pearson for the 50-yard touchdown that beat Minnesota in the playoffs. Also from the Shotgun, Staubach kept Super Bowl X lively after Pittsburgh took a 21-10 lead with 3:02 to play. He passed for one touchdown and, with a chance to win, threw two incomplete passes into the end zone. Three years later, passes from the Shotgun almost unraveled another Pittsburgh Super Bowl victory, as the Cowboys scored with 2:27 remaining and 22 seconds to play but fell short 35-31 in Game XIII.

Other NFL teams were not quick to latch on to the Shotgun, but half the league was using it in 1980. The Shotgun's critics, and they were staunch, feared the chances of fumbling an airborne snap and warned it would distract the quarterback from reading a defense, which he could do while retreating on foot. But the Shotgun's advocates, equally staunch, pointed out the fluttery snap required neither precision by the center nor full concentration by the quarterback. They said the deep start gave a quarterback a better angle to view the defense, escape the pass rush, and throw the ball more quickly.

Not far behind the Shotgun came wholesale situation substitution. Passing-down specialists had been used sporadically before. George Allen employed a Nickel defense while the Bears' defensive coordinator in the 1963 NFL Championship Game. Grant put in a third wide receiver in the late sixties when he isolated a fleet back, Jim Lindsey, on a Detroit linebacker and won the game with a long pass. "It was supposedly a stroke of genius," Grant says self-deprecatingly, considering it only an experiment that would have flopped had the pass been incomplete.

The difference in Dallas's Spread was it made the third wide receiver part of the formation, not an option. The Nickel (fifth) defensive back became an essential person to counter against it. Dallas escalated the substitution sequence another step in 1977 when halfback Preston Pearson, playing only on passing downs, had 46 catches and led both teams with 5 when Dallas beat Denver 27-10 in Super Bowl XII. Backs had been used as receiving specialists before, just as Philadelphia's Claude Humphrey and Oakland's Cedrick Hardman were not the NFL's first designated pass rushers when their teams met in Super Bowl XV. But the Super Bowl certified those specialist positions as needs for every team to fill.

For the first three years after the 1978 rule changes encouraged passes, the traditionally strong Steelers and Raiders won Super Bowls by the traditional means of controlling the ball on the ground and beating their opponents with long passes. They had the running games and defenses to play that way. What the rule changes did was open the door for teams without running games.

San Francisco barged right in. The 49ers didn't have anyone resembling Franco Harris or Mark van Eeghen, so they turned to the passing game for ball control. It was a little more intricate that way, but the 49ers' trail to Super Bowl XVI proved it could be done. Again.

For it had been done. Former Chargers head coach Sid Gillman had backs catching passes at San Diego in the early sixties. Grant had Vikings running backs leading the league in receptions in the seventies. "But more people now are taking more advantage of it," Walsh says.

For Minnesota, putting backs in the pass pattern had simply given Tarkenton more flexibility than leaving them behind to block. Tarkenton didn't need extra blockers. He could run from the rush. He needed someone to throw to while he was running.

"Francis was a great one for getting something out of a play," Grant says. "If the defense is doing something you didn't anticipate, don't stay with it. Have your backs out where you can have a high percentage of completions and get the ball to them. If you could throw the ball four or five yards and the back could squirm and wriggle and dive for another three or four, you had a good gain."

The 49ers did the same thing, but embraced the strategy wholesale. They designed their offense around those high-percentage passes. The plays were practically running plays, with passes as safe as pitchouts.

The 49ers could pass on first down or run on third. They upped the ante on multiple sets and motion. "We can run one play five times in a game and give it a different look each time," said Walt Downing, a guard on the Super Bowl XVI team. "That makes it hard for a defense to tee off."

So did the design of the pass patterns. They developed quickly and they adjusted to the defense. Instead of calling audibles, Washington's Theismann says more teams are having their quarterback "read on the run, after the snap." Instead of hoping the called pattern sends a receiver into an open spot in the coverage, the 49ers, Redskins, and many other teams allow receivers to adjust their routes toward openings. If the double coverage is in-and-out, he'll run a fly; if it's short-and-deep, he'll run an out. "All you have to do is run the route

Tony Tomsic

Rookies played key roles for San Francisco in Super Bowl XVI.

the way Bill [Walsh] tells you," 49ers wide receiver Dwight Clark says, "and you'll be open."

To the 49ers' refinements on the short passing game, Washington added a tireless running back and a second tight end. With John Riggins, the Redskins didn't just begin games by establishing the run. They established the pass. They wore down the defense. Then they sent Riggins at them. That was how they came from behind in the fourth quarter of Super Bowl XVII to beat Miami.

But the most significant ground the Redskins broke was using two tight ends and one back for the whole season. Lots of other teams had used two tight ends, but the Redskins built their whole offense around them, redesigning their depth chart. About half a dozen teams operated primarily with two tight ends during the 1983 season, with many others using them often.

The extra tight end is good for the run. His blocking assignments are similar to a fullback's, but his angles are better. Instead of absorbing a defensive lineman's momentum in the backfield, the second tight end can go in motion and, with that running start, block the lineman while he's leaving his stance.

The extra tight end is even better for passing. He is a fourth receiver at the line of scrimmage, one more player to be quickly available in the pattern.

"That's where the future is," Gillman says. "With four receivers up on the line, someone should get open every play. It's wonderful. These coaches who are still running fullback slants with two backs in the backfield have lost it."

A tight end can go so many more places than a fullback. When he does it during the snap count, he can cause confusion. That's what happened on Riggins's winning touchdown run in Super Bowl XVII. The Dolphins' cornerback (Don McNeal) followed the tight end toward the center, slipped when the tight end turned and retraced his steps, and couldn't get to the corner in time to meet the play.

Another big impact of San Francisco's Super Bowl XVI championship was the key role played by three rookies in the defensive backfield. Walsh didn't put them there out of keen foresight. He put them there because he had nobody else. Then he, and the rest of the NFL, watched the rookies help win game after game.

While Ronnie Lott, Eric Wright, and Carlton Williamson were starting for the 49ers two seasons ago, the Redskins were making good use of rookie offensive linemen. Never mind that everyone knows offensive linemen can't play right away. In their second seasons, Joe Jacoby, Russ Grimm, Jeff Bostic, and Mark May became the core of the Hogs on last year's championship team.

The game is more accommodating to rookies than it once was. Specialization allows them to play without yet being complete players. The no-bump rule on pass coverage has enabled raw speed to overcome skills a defensive back or a wide receiver may be lacking. And, players come into the NFL with better training.

"Going into a season, you're looking for young players to help you now," Walsh says. "Some time ago, it was, 'In a few years, he'll really be good.' But now you expect him to be good right away."

"I don't think coaches have as many preconceived ideas," says Joe Gibbs, Washington's head coach.

They can't because the stakes are higher. San Francisco preceded its championship seasons with records of 2-14 and 6-10, Washington with 6-10 and 8-8. They showed it's possible to climb the ladder of success at a full gallop with enough help from young players, so there isn't much talk about five-year plans around the league. With the teams so closely balanced, even the best ones aren't so deep that they're above taking help from a rookie.

It may have become easier to get to the Super Bowl from oblivion in one year, but it isn't any easier to win there. For the teams that do, the whole world is watching. And taking notes. ■

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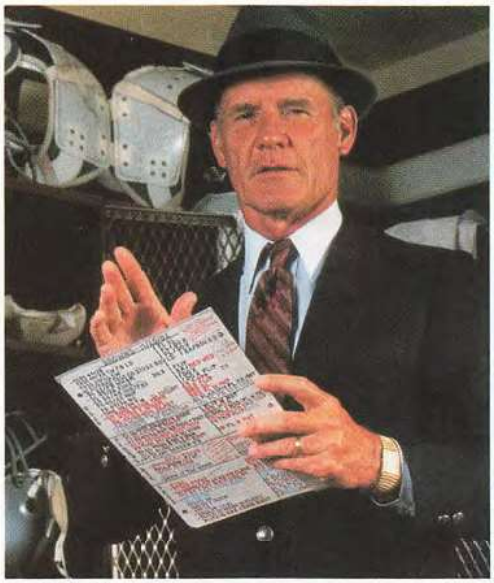

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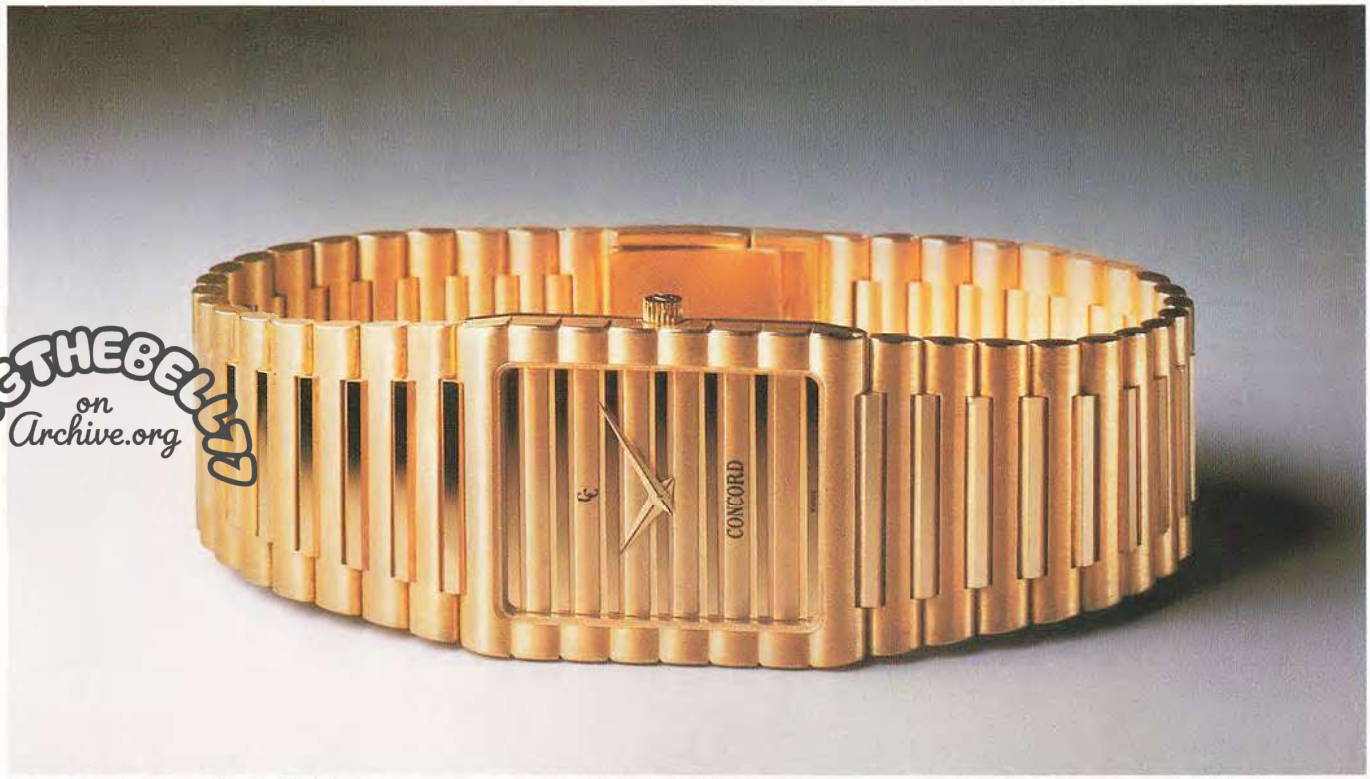

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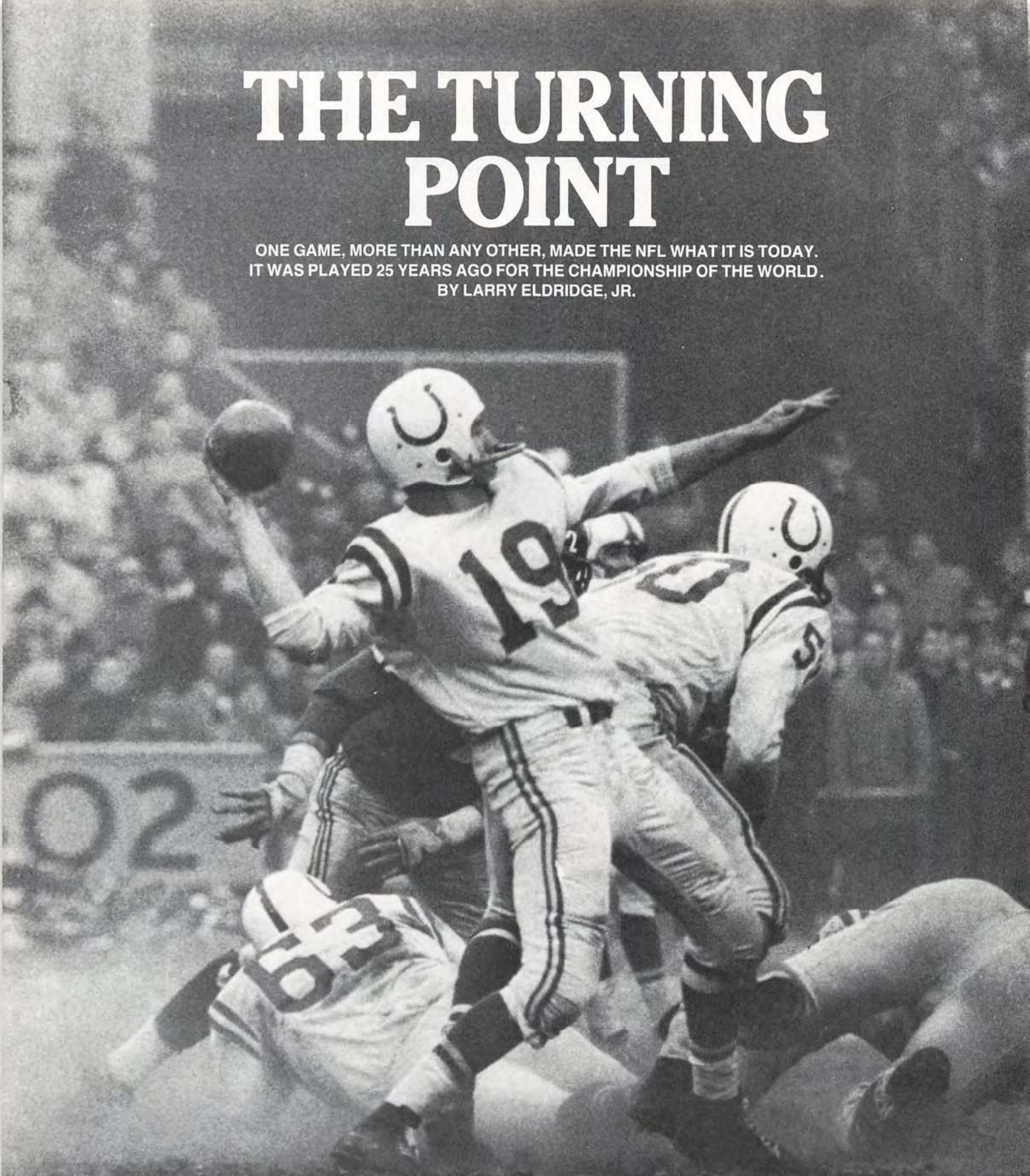
THE TURNING POINT

ONE GAME, MORE THAN ANY OTHER, MADE THE NFL WHAT IT IS TODAY. IT WAS PLAYED 25 YEARS AGO FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE WORLD.

BY LARRY ELDRIDGE, JR.



It was vastly different for pro football back then, back in December of 1958.

Sputnik and beatnik were buzzwords. Detroit's designers brought rocket fins to the Cadillac. Elvis and Ike were in. So were Brando, Marilyn Monroe, and Dr. Suess's "The Cat in the Hat." Sugar Ray Robinson was in; he had just won the middleweight boxing championship for the fifth time. A young golfer named Arnold Palmer had won his first Masters Tournament, and was on the way in. Hawaii was still only a U.S. territory, but Alaska was "in."

Television was in, too. There were more sets than ever before, and if your family wasn't lucky enough to have one yet, you went

to a friend's house to watch "Playhouse 90," "Dinah Shore," or "You Bet Your Life."

Pro football was not in. Oh, there was some provincial interest in the National Football League's 12 franchises, and the sport had pockets of rabid fans.

But for most of the population, pro football was a non-existent sport, an afterthought. It was something that took place when baseball was over...a Sunday afternoon appendage to the college football schedule, found in a few large cities.

But that all changed on December 28, 1958, when a historic confrontation took place at Yankee Stadium...the House that Ruth Built...the home of Gehrig, Di-

Photograph by Robert Riger

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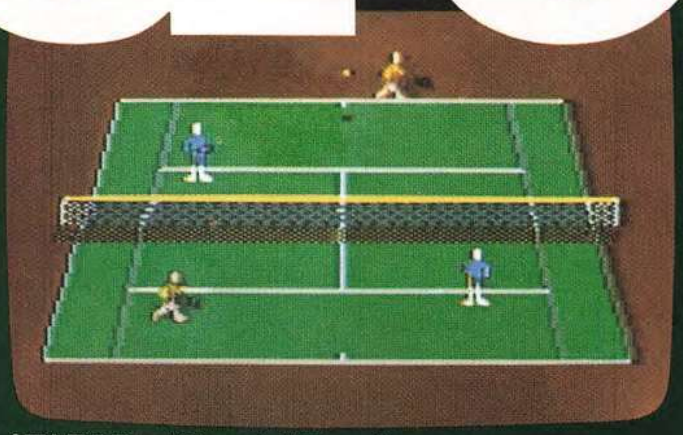

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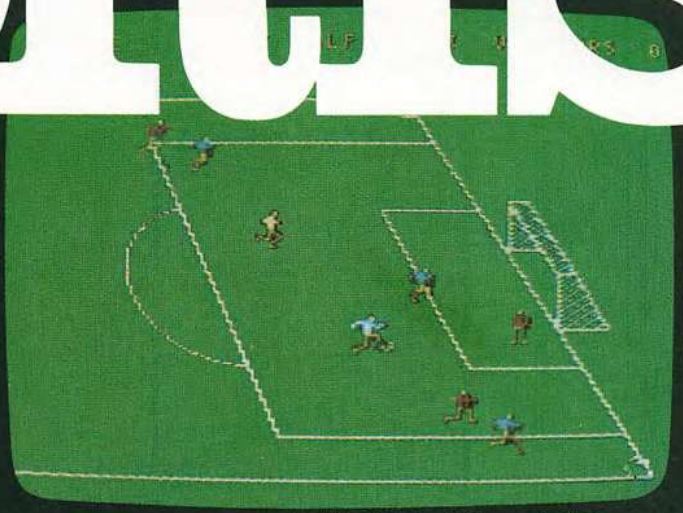

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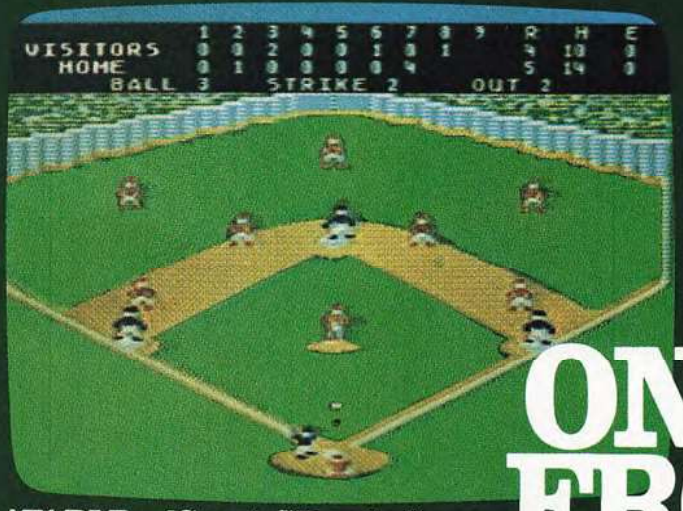

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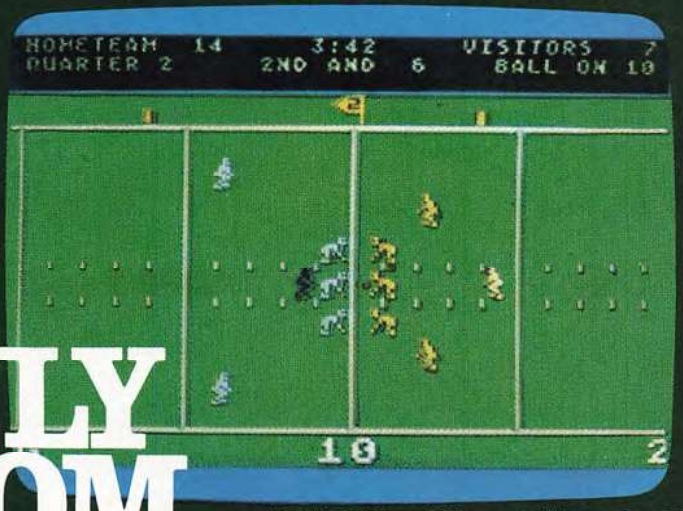

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Maggio, and Mantle... and the four-month-a-year home of pro football's New York Giants.

On that winter day the Giants hosted the Baltimore Colts in the NFL championship game. It wasn't just another game; it turned out to be The Game, an electrifying sudden-death thriller—the first overtime game in NFL history—and it galvanized a nation.

"In years to come," wrote Gene Ward of the New York *Daily News* the next day, "when our children's children are listening to stories about football, they'll be told about the greatest game ever played—the one between the Giants and Colts for the 1958 NFL championship. They'll be told of heroics the likes of which never had been seen...."

Sure enough, 25 years later, it remains the most honored game of all. It is the brightest star in the NFL's all-time galaxy of games, a supernova with a vista that glows as brightly today as it did all those years ago.

The memories for the some 50 million people who watched it on television may be in black and white. But that was the game that launched the NFL into hyperspace.

And what a game it was.

By 1958, the NFL had settled into a tidy, 12-team framework aligned in two six-team conferences. It was a far cry from pro football's scattershot years in the 1920s and 1930s, when franchises hopped to and from places such as Duluth, Minnesota; Pottsville, Pennsylvania; Portsmouth, Ohio; and Providence, Rhode Island.

But it also was a far different world than it is today. It was an era of 35-man rosters, full-house backfields, two-bar face masks, and conventional style placekickers. The Cardinals were still in Chicago. The league's headquarters was located in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania, a Philadelphia suburb, and its commissioner was Bert Bell. (Pete Rozelle was then the 31-year-old general manager of the Rams.)

There were no domed stadiums, no artificial playing surfaces, no white shoes, no TV timeouts. There was no Monday Night Football (Howard Cosell was an ABC radio announcer). There weren't even any Dallas Cowboys...and no Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders.

Hy Peskin for Sports Illustrated

The Unitas-to-Berry connection caused the Giants game-long torment.

The Giants had defeated the Cleveland Browns 10-0 in an Eastern Conference playoff game one week earlier to win the right to meet Baltimore, which had won the Western Conference, in the championship game.

That there was even a franchise in Baltimore is a story in itself.

In 1950, three teams from a defunct rival pro league, the All-America Football Conference, were absorbed into the NFL: the Cleveland Browns, San Francisco 49ers, and Baltimore Colts.

The Browns were immediately successful; they won the NFL title in their first season in the league. The 49ers also quickly became contenders. But the Colts won only one game in 1950, and the team disbanded after the season, its players being scattered among the league's remaining 12 teams.

The following season, the New York Yanks replaced the Colts as the NFL's most forlorn franchise. They managed just one victory, and were a financial albatross. They wound up being sold to a group that moved the team to Dallas for the 1952 season, and renamed it the Texans.

But the Texans fared no better than either the Yanks or the Colts had, and after playing their first four games in relative privacy, they were "disowned." The league office took over the administration of the club, which had to play the remaining games of its schedule on the road... and which again wound up winning only one game.

Finally, in December of 1952, the city of Baltimore adopted the NFL's orphan club. The Baltimore fans had been thirsting for another team ever since the original Colts had left town, and they displayed their commitment by purchasing 15,000 season tickets before there was even an owner (who turned out to be Carroll Rosenbloom), a coach, or any players.

Hy Peskin for Sports Illustrated

Part of the Colts' game plan was to keep Frank Gifford (16) company.

The "new" Colts continued to struggle on the field, finishing 3-9 in 1953. But new hope arose when Weeb Ewbank was lured from Paul Brown's Cleveland staff to coach the Colts in 1954.

Ewbank guaranteed the fans of Baltimore a team of championship caliber within five years. Sure enough, five years later, Ewbank brought the Colts to Yankee Stadium to duel for the NFL championship.

The saga of the nomadic Colts provided a stark counterpoint to the aristocratic lineage of the Giants, a part of the NFL since 1925, when Tim Mara purchased the team for $2,500.

In the early days, the Giants had to wrestle for attention (and fans) with the likes of baseball's Yankees, Dodgers, and Giants, and even Columbia University, a football power in the 1930s featuring All-America quarterback Sid Luckman.

But Mara, a clever promoter and no shrinking violet, kept the game alive in New York. The Giants won four NFL championships, were runners-up eight other times, and by the time the Colts came to town in 1958, New York City was hooked.

The Giants, by virtue of winning the NFL title in 1956 and their residence in the nation's marketing and media mecca, were by far the better known of the two teams. Their hallmark was a magnificent defense—the first defense to have a glamorous identity.

It began with a powerful line of pillboxes named Jim Katcavage, Rosey Grier, Andy Robustelli, and Dick Modzelewski, The Giants also were armed with a barbed wire secondary, featuring safeties Jim Patton, who led the NFL with 11 interceptions in 1958, and Emlen Tunnell, whom Giants head coach Jim Lee Howell called "the greatest safety of all time."

But more than any other player, Sam Huff symbolized the Giants' formidable defense. Huff, a marauding hitter whose legend would be ensured two years later by a CBS documentary with Walter Cronkite called "The Violent World of Sam Huff," was part middle linebacker, part kamikaze. In the 1958 playoff win against Cleveland,

Huff personally applied a straightjacket to superstar running back Jim Brown, who managed just eight yards on seven carries. (When Brown, now 47, recently made noise about unretiring if Pittsburgh's Franco Harris breaks his NFL career rushing record, Huff retorted, "I want to know how much money he [Brown] is gonna get, and I want to know how much money they're gonna give me to come back and stop him.")

The Giants' defense was so prominent that linebacker Cliff Livingston even had a television commercial in New York—unheard of for a defensive player in those days.

Less imposing was the Giants' offense, which relied heavily on the big-play threats of quarterback Charlie Conerly, end Kyle Rote, and the glamor boy, halfback Frank Gifford, now the familiar play-by-play voice on ABC's "Monday Night Football." That trio was supplemented by running backs Alex Webster and Mel Triplett, a Roosevelt Brown-led offensive line, a sure-handed receiver in Bob Schnelker, and the reliable shots of placekicker Pat Summerall.

But there was sometimes trouble, which translated into long scoring droughts.

"It got pretty bad," Rote says. "I remember once going out to take over on offense after the defense had scored on the Cardinals. Robustelli was coming off, and he stopped to pat me on the back. 'See if you can hold them,' he said."

Howell, the cordial, easy-going head coach, was more than willing to delegate most of his coaching authority to his top two assistants. And why not? He had Vince Lombardi to run his offense, and Tom Landry calling shots for the defense.

But if the Giants' offense was occasionally an embarrassment, the Colts' offense had an embarrassment of riches, beginning with quarterback Johnny Unitas. Just three years earlier, Unitas, then a skinny crewcut lad of 22, had been cut by the Steelers, who had drafted him in the ninth round from the University of Louisville (Notre Dame hadn't wanted him). He was playing semipro ball on the sandlots of Pittsburgh for $6 a game when the Colts called to offer him a tryout. The rest is history.

United Press International

Mel Triplett's third-quarter touchdown helped bring the Giants back.

The team was well stocked at the other skill positions, with clutch split end Raymond Berry, mercurial halfback Lenny Moore, and aptly nicknamed fullback Alan (The Horse) Ameche. There also was a dependable offensive line, anchored by massive (6-foot 3-inch, 270-pound) left tackle Jim Parker.

Baltimore's defense may have lacked the press clippings and renown of the Giants' famed unit, but it was a crack outfit—and enough the Giants' equal for the Colts to go into the game as slight favorites to win.

The Colts led the NFL with 35 interceptions that season. Safeties Ray Brown, a rookie, and Andy Nelson each had eight, and halfback Carl Taseff picked off seven.

They had a rugged, blue-collar linebacking corps anchored by Bill Pellington—a 1950s version of Jack Lambert—in the middle, and there was plenty of what counted up front, where defensive end Gino Marchetti, and tackles Art Donovan and Gene (Big Daddy) Lipscomb conducted a weekly reign of terror.

In Ewbank's pre-championship game address to his team, he told his players they all had something to prove, and the place to do it was in New York. He went down his roster, player-by-player, reminding them all they were a team of rejects, players no one else had wanted.

"Weeb really put it to us," said Marchetti. "He went down the roster, name-by-name... 'Donovan, they got rid of you—too fat and slow...Ameche, Green Bay didn't want you... Lipscomb, you were released ...Berry, people said you'd never be a pro.' Yeah, he named me, Unitas...he didn't miss anybody."

Ewbank also brought up a regular season loss to the Giants, and how Charlie Conerly had written a column for a New York newspaper that said the Giants had "...outgutted the Colts." (Conerly's column actually was ghostwritten, but Weeb wasn't about to get technical.)

Ewbank's address didn't have equal impact on all of the players. Donovan, for one, claimed he didn't even hear part of it. "I was so nervous I was in the bathroom throwing up," he said.

But most of the Colts took it out of the locker room and onto

Dream Teams

One of the many striking aspects of the 1958 NFL Championship Game was its assemblage of talent; a roll call of names on the rosters reveals a veritable who's who of that era of pro football.

Six of the Colts' starters were later enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame: Raymond Berry, Art Donovan, Gino Marchetti, Lenny Moore, Jim Parker, and Johnny Unitas. So, too, was Baltimore head coach Weeb Ewbank (who ironically later coached the AFL's New York Jets to victory against the Colts in Super Bowl III).

Roosevelt Brown, Frank Gifford, Sam Huff, Andy Robustelli, and Emlen Tunnell of the Giants also were destined for the Hall of Fame, as was offensive coordinator Vince Lombardi, who later became the head coach of the Green Bay Packers and Washington Redskins. The Giants' defensive coordinator that year, Dallas Cowboys head coach Tom Landry, is a future Hall of Fame certainty.

The well-credentialed starting lineups for the 1958 championship game:

STARTING LINEUPS

Colts Offense		Colts Defense	
82 Raymond Berry	E	89 Gino Marchetti	E
77 Jim Parker	T	70 Art Donovan	T
63 Art Spinney	G	76 Gene Lipscomb	T
50 Madison Nutter	C	83 Don Joyce	E
68 Alex Sandusky	G	66 Don Shinnick	LB
60 George Preas	T	36 Bill Pellington	LB
84 Jim Mutscheller	E	55 Leo Sanford	LB
19 Johnny Unitas	QB	20 Milt Davis	DHB
45 L.G. Dupre	HB	23 Carl Taseff	DHB
24 Lenny Moore	HB	17 Ray Brown	S
35 Alan Ameche	FB	80 Andy Nelson	S
Giants Offense		**Giants Defense**	
44 Kyle Rote	E	75 Jim Katcavage	E
79 Roosevelt Brown	T	76 Roosevelt Grier	T
68 Al Barry	G	77 Dick Modzelewski	T
55 Ray Wietecha	C	81 Andy Robustelli	E
62 Bob Mischak	G	89 Cliff Livingston	LB
76 Frank Youso	T	70 Sam Huff	LB
85 Bob Schnelker	E	84 Harland Svare	LB
11 Don Heinrich	QB	21 Carl Karilivacz	DHB
16 Frank Gifford	HB	41 Lindon Crow	DHB
29 Alex Webster	HB	20 Jim Patton	S
33 Mel Triplett	FB	45 Emlen Tunnell	S

Baltimore	0	14	0	3	6—23
N.Y. Giants	3	0	7	7	0—17

NYG —FG Summerall 36
Balt —Ameche 2 run (Myhra kick)
Balt —Berry 15 pass from Unitas (Myhra kick)
NYG —Triplett 1 run (Summerall kick)
NYG —Gifford 15 pass from Conerly (Summerall kick)
Balt —FG Myhra 20
Balt —Ameche 1 run (no PAT)

TEAM STATISTICS	Balt	NYG
First Downs	27	10
Rushing	9	3
Passing	17	7
By penalty	1	0
Total yardage	460	266
Net rushing yardage	138	88
Net passing yardage	322	178
Passes att.-comp.-had int.	40-26-1	18-12-0

Attendance—64,185

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the playing field with them.

The sellout crowd of 64,185 fans—including some 15,000 from Baltimore—were treated to delightful 49-degree weather. But the game itself actually got off to an uninspired start. Neither team could move the ball early, and there were three quick turnovers.

But late in the first quarter, Unitas struck for a big 60-yard completion to the elusive Moore, a play that would later help change the complexion of the game by making the Giants' defense overly conscious of Moore's deep threat.

The Colts couldn't get past the Giants' 25, though, and called on placekicker Steve Myhra, who missed the attempt, but got another chance when the Giants were called offside. Then his second try was blocked by Huff.

At this point the Giants replaced Don Heinrich, who had started the game at quarterback, with Conerly.

It was a familiar little piece of strategy by New York. Howell—and this was his maneuver, not Lombardi's—preferred to start Heinrich and let him "feel out" the defense (with Conerly taking mental notes on the sideline). Howell's theory was that most defenses tended to unveil surprise tactics—especially blitzes—early in a game, and he wanted to protect the 37-year-old Conerly, who, like a number of the Giants, had been a little shell shocked in the hectic final weeks of the season. (New York had been extended to a physical and emotional limit in its games leading up to the championship match, coming from behind to win "must" games against Detroit and Cleveland in the final two weeks of the season, and then forced into the grueling playoff against the Browns, while the Colts rested.)

Once he got into the game, Conerly wasted no time making his presence felt. He drove the Giants to the Baltimore 29, and then Summerall kicked a 36-yard field goal. The first quarter—which was not the "Greatest 15 Minutes Ever Played"—ended with the Giants ahead 3-0.

The Colts finally went to work in the second quarter. After Big Daddy Lipscomb recovered a fumble by Gifford at the Giants' 20, Ameche, behind a devastating block by Parker, scored on a two-yard plunge to put the Colts on top 7-3.

The Giants went nowhere on the next series, but Baltimore's Jackie Simpson fumbled a punt, and Mel Guy recovered for New York at the Colts' 10.

That golden opportunity evaporated, however, when Gifford fumbled again after colliding with Rosie Brown; Don Joyce recovered for Baltimore.

"I really felt bad about that one," said Gifford, "because we were going in for a score, but the Colts took it away and scored instead. If I had to pick a spot where the game began to turn, that was it."

Fred Roe

When it was desperate, Berry broke the Giants; Marchetti broke a leg.

As Gifford later said, Unitas went for the jugular, taking the Colts on a picture drive just before halftime. He sprung Moore loose on sweeps, unloosed Ameche up the middle, and began finessing the Giants to death with short passes to Berry. The final play of the drive was a 15-yard touchdown bullet to Berry after a fake to Ameche, which sent the Colts into their dressing room at halftime with a 14-3 lead.

Despite its stumbling start, Baltimore had gained nearly 200 yards in the first half, while the Giants had managed just 86. In the New York locker room at halftime, Lombardi suggested a new strategy. Since the Colts had been dogging Gifford so intensely throughout the first half, why not use him more as a decoy the rest of the game?

Early in the second half, the Colts pushed the Giants' defense all the way to the New York 3, where Baltimore had a first down with four cracks to get into the end zone, and a chance to break the game open.

But the Giants threw out their chests and began snorting fire.

Ameche dove into the line on first down for a yard, no more.

Unitas tried a sneak, and gained a foot.

Ameche hit the line again. . .no gain.

On fourth-and-goal from the 1, Unitas called for a pitch to Ameche, who was then supposed to pass to tight end Jim Mutscheller in the end zone. Mutscheller was open, but Giants linebacker Cliff Livingston read the play all the way and nailed Ameche before he could throw.

"There was just no way they were going to score," said Huff. "We were like wild animals out there. They weren't gonna get a damn thing."

The New York fans began to rock Yankee Stadium. And the Giants' offense, infused with momentum from the stirring goal-line stand, picked up the beat.

On third-and-two from his own 13, Conerly faked to Gifford and flipped the ball to Rote at the 40. Rote shed several tacklers before he was finally scissored by two Colts at the Baltimore 25, where he also shed the ball. But it turned into an Immaculate Fumble. The ball bounced into the arms of Webster, who had been trailing the play in convoy, and he reached the Colts' 1 before being stopped.

The Giants had matched their entire offensive output in the first half on one crazy, providential stroke. They cashed in two plays later when Triplett powered for a touchdown.

Suddenly, it was 14-10 and all hell was breaking loose in the stands. "The noise was something you would not believe—a solid wall of sound," wrote Tex Maule in *Sports Illustrated*.

The Giants' defense, back on the field, was throwing its weight around. Modzelewski twice infiltrated the Colts' backfield, sacking Unitas once and driving him out of the pocket another time. Baltimore had to punt.

The baton of momentum once again was handed back to the New York offense, and Conerly spirited the Giants down the field, netting a big 46-yard gain on one pass to Bob Schnelker off a fake double reverse.

In the first minute of the fourth quarter, Conerly isolated Gifford on a linebacker in the right corner of the end zone and pinpointed a touchdown pass to make it 17-14.

(Giants owner Wellington Mara, Tim's son, actually had a hand in his team's second touchdown. He had taken Polaroid photos of the Colts' defense from the press box during the first half that revealed a tendency by the Colts' secondary to overshift to the strong side. Conerly called a play to capitalize on Mara's undercover work.)

As the minutes ticked away in the fourth quarter, things looked bleak for Baltimore. A 46-yard field goal attempt by Bert Rechichar, who handled the Colts' long attempts, was no good. In the Colts' next series, Robustelli and Modzelewski took turns blowing past Unitas's protection, sacking him on successive plays, and forcing a punt.

"At that point," said Webster, "we just had to keep the ball, run out the clock, and they'd never get another chance. We were so hot. . .everything was working so well. . .it sure looked like our game."

The Giants took over on their own 19, and wound the clock down to 2:30. (Up in the press box, meanwhile, Conerly was [temporarily] being voted as the *Sport* magazine most valuable player.)

On third-and-four at the Giants' 40, Gifford took a handoff on a power sweep. A first down would all but assure a Giants victory, and for a split second Gifford appeared to have made enough progress. But Marchetti and linebacker Don Shinnick swallowed up Gifford, and then all 288 pounds of Big Daddy Lipscomb crashed into the pile, snapping Marchetti's right leg just above the ankle like a twig. There was momentary

chaos as Marchetti writhed in pain. When the ball was marked, New York was inches short.

To this day, Gifford swears he got enough for the first down.

"I made the first down," he says. "I know I made it. But Marchetti broke his leg, and he was screaming like a wounded panther. There was a lot of confusion. A lot of time passed by while they carried Marchetti off the field. When they spotted the ball, it was placed short of the first down marker."

"The referee was so concerned about Marchetti," says Rote, "that he forgot where he had picked up the ball. I saw him pick it up at his front foot. But he put it down where his back foot was."

Howell now faced a crucial decision. He could try to gain the inches, and if the Giants got the first down his offense could wrap it up. Or he could punt, and leave it up to the defense.

There was no question what the offense wanted to do.

"We only needed four inches," said guard Jack Stroud. "We would have run through a brick wall at that point. Besides, Marchetti was out, and whoever they put in for him couldn't have been as good. And he would have been nervous, tight, ready for it to happen to him. And it would have gone to him, and dammit, it would have worked."

Howell decided to punt.

"My wife said to me after the game," Howell later admitted, " 'You can't win by giving the ball away.' But [Don] Chandler could kick the ball all the way, and we thought we could stop them."

The way the Giants' defense was playing at the time it seemed like sound strategy, and Chandler did, in fact, kick a dazzler, all the way to the Baltimore 14. There, New York lined up in the 1950s version of the Prevent defense, covering the sidelines and the deep zones.

There was 1:56 left on the clock, and the air was electric. A cold, gray mist was settling into the floodlit stadium, creating an almost eerie backdrop for the events to follow.

Unitas quickly threw two incompletions. Suddenly, it was third-and-10. The Colts were 86 yards from the end zone with just 79 seconds left. The Giants looked like shoo-ins. But Football Magic was in the making.

"We had the game locked up in the third period," said Unitas, "and it looked like we had blown it. We were so damn disgusted with ourselves that we struck back at the Giants in a sort of blind fury the last time we got the ball."

Unitas hit Moore on the crucial third-down play for 11 yards and a first down. Then he began tearing into the Giants' defense with passes to Berry, ripping off gains of 25, 16, and 21 yards.

The Giants were paying more attention to the deep patterns being run by Moore, who had burned them early in the game, and were too often leaving Berry covered by just one defensive back. But Berry, who had only average speed, and wore contact lenses, a corset to protect a bad back, and a corrective shoe (because one of his legs was shorter

The View From the Booth

Pro football entered the electronic era on October 22, 1939. That Sunday afternoon, NBC television station W2XBS broadcast a game between the Philadelphia Eagles and the Brooklyn Dodgers from Brooklyn's Ebbets Field, the first professional football game ever televised. At the time there were approximately 1,000 television sets in the New York viewing area to receive announcer Bill Walz's play-by-play...until the daylight—and the picture along with it—dimmed.

Since then, thousands of games have gone out over the airwaves. None, however, has had the impact of the 1958 NFL Championship Game, which put the NFL on the media map.

Back then, the announcers associated with the teams—rather than those with the networks—were selected to work the playoff and championship games. That landed Chris Schenkel, the Giants' announcer, and Chuck Thompson, who did the Colts' games, in the booth at Yankee Stadium for the title game, which was blacked out in New York. Schenkel and Thompson, who were close friends, flipped a coin to determine who would do the play-by-play for each half. Schenkel won and naturally chose the second half. But Thompson wound up with the real plum: he got to do what no other broadcaster ever had done—describe the action of a sudden-death overtime.

"Schenk and I didn't really care who was calling it," says Thompson, "since we were so wrapped up in what I called 'pro football's finest hour.' "

"We were having a good time up in the booth," says Schenkel. "We were rooting for our teams, elbowing each other, and, during commercials, bantering back and forth."

The fun stopped in overtime. In the middle of what would prove to be the Colts' game-winning drive, NBC lost its picture. Raymond Berry caught a pass on the Giants' 8, and, zap, millions of sets across the U.S. and Canada went black.

"Suddenly," says Thompson, "a voice in my headset was saying, 'Do a radio play-by-play.' Where there had been at least a dozen people all around us just seconds before, Schenkel and I found ourselves alone in the booth with just our spotters and two technicians. Everyone else had gone to rectify the problem, which turned out to be a disconnected power cable.

"Words can't describe the feeling of utter frustration and helplessness. You could cut the tension in the booth with a knife. Then along comes a fan from the far end zone. He was barreling down the field toward the Colts. To say the least, all the security men took off to stop him. Referee Ron Gibbs stopped the game with an officials' time out."

For NBC, and the estimated 50 million television viewers who had been blacked out, it was a provident interruption.

"NBC got the picture back in time for fullback Alan Ameche's touchdown dive," Thompson says. "But I still wonder to this day if the fan who charged down the field was, as some would have you believe, a highly placed NBC executive just getting the job done."

United Press International

Steve Myhra's dramatic field goal tied the score at 17-17, and forced the NFL's first overtime.

Unitas's only bad call came in overtime.

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DANA

than the other), had more than enough savvy, determination, and courage to overcome any of those shortcomings. He caught *everything* that was thrown anywhere near him.

"In that era," says Landry, "before the passing game had been refined into what it is now, the perfection of Unitas and Berry—and I say perfection because they were both perfectionists—was something extraordinary."

With the Unitas-to-Berry combo clicking, the Colts moved all the way to the New York 13 with 19 seconds left. But they were out of time outs. The field goal unit ran onto the field and, without benefit of a huddle, Myhra kicked a 20-yard field goal with seven seconds left to force the first sudden-death overtime in the history of the NFL.

"I told myself I better not miss it," said Myhra, a nervous, erratic kicker who had made only 4 of 10 field goals all season, "or it was going to be a long, cold winter back on the farm in North Dakota."

Hy Peskin for Sports Illustrated

Ameche's game-winning touchdown run: sudden glory in sudden death.

Confusion reigned for a few moments after regulation expired; some of the players weren't even aware of the provision for overtime. No doubt some viewers around the country switched off their television sets for the same reason.

At this point, Marchetti, who had watched the Colts' closing drive on a stretcher behind the end zone, was taken into the Baltimore locker room.

"I wouldn't let them take me into the clubhouse at first," said the Colts' captain. "This was my game too. I watched as we drove to Myhra's field goal. But they were afraid we'd be overrun by the crowd."

So Unitas joined New York cocaptains Rote and Bill Svoboda at midfield for the coin toss to determine the overtime kickoff. Referee Ron Gibbs flipped the coin, and Unitas called tails. It turned out to be Unitas's only bad call of the overtime.

Don Maynard, who later went on to set the NFL's all-time reception yardage record, but was then a Giants rookie, fumbled the opening kickoff. He recovered and brought it out to the 20.

But the Giants fell a foot short of a first down on their 29, and Chandler was forced to punt away to the Colts, who took over on their own 20.

From there, the uncanny Unitas proceeded to choreograph 13 plays that made football history, and assured his icy-veined place in sports legend.

"Johnny told us in the huddle before we began that drive we were going to take the ball right down and score," said Ameche. "And we all believed him."

"We all got our confidence from Johnny," said Berry, who set a championship game record with 12 receptions for 178 yards. "I can't explain it, but I absolutely knew we were going to score on that drive."

After moving to the Baltimore 43 on two runs by L.G. Dupree and a swing pass to Ameche, Unitas was slammed by Modzelewski for an eight-yard loss to create a tense third-and-15 call.

The Colts lined up in a new formation, with both ends split wide and Moore, the primary receiver, stationed in the right slot. Moore was blanketed, so Unitas instead fired to old faithful, Berry, for a 21-yard gain and a first down.

The irrepressible Modzelewski had been charging into the backfield too fast to suit Unitas, so next he set up the sting: He called a trap for Ameche up the middle. When big Mo tore in as Unitas expected, and Huff cheated toward the sideline to help with the pass coverage, Ameche fired up the middle for a big 23-yard gain to the Giants' 20.

A quick slant to Berry delivered the Colts to the 8, easy field goal range. Then, a few overexuberant fans in some temporary bleachers accidentally dislodged a television power cable, blacking out the game broadcast. Seconds later, a fan barged onto the field, causing an official time out to restore order. Unitas took the opportunity to go to his bench to confer with Ewbank.

"I told him, 'Keep it on the ground,'" said Ewbank. "'We don't want an interception here. We can go for the field goal if running plays don't work."

On first down, Ameche gained a yard off right tackle. On second-and-goal from the 7, Unitas stunned everyone—especially Ewbank—by floating an audacious pass to Mutscheller, who took it to the 1.

Even though it worked, the call was later second-guessed by almost everyone. "There is no gamble when you know where you're throwing," Unitas said. "And if there had been any danger of an interception, I would have thrown it away."

So it was third-and-goal from the 1. No need for subtlety here. But even now, Unitas fooled the Giants, sending Ameche on a

Was It the Greatest Ever?

We are a society hooked on superlatives, paying homage to the biggest...the newest...the best...the greatest.

So the question is begged: Was the 1958 NFL Championship Game *really* the greatest game ever played?

Many people think so, of course, but a few years ago *Sport* magazine conducted a poll of people connected with college and pro football, including (current and former) players, coaches, owners, administrators, and officials, to identify the greatest game—college or pro—of all.

On a 5-3-1 scoring basis, the 1958 championship game was the overwhelming favorite, receiving nearly twice as many points as the runner-up 1967 NFL Championship "Ice Bowl" Game between Dallas and Green Bay. (In third place was Notre Dame's 18-13 victory over Ohio State in 1935.)

Convincingly, the 1958 championship game drew more first-place votes than the next seven finishers combined.

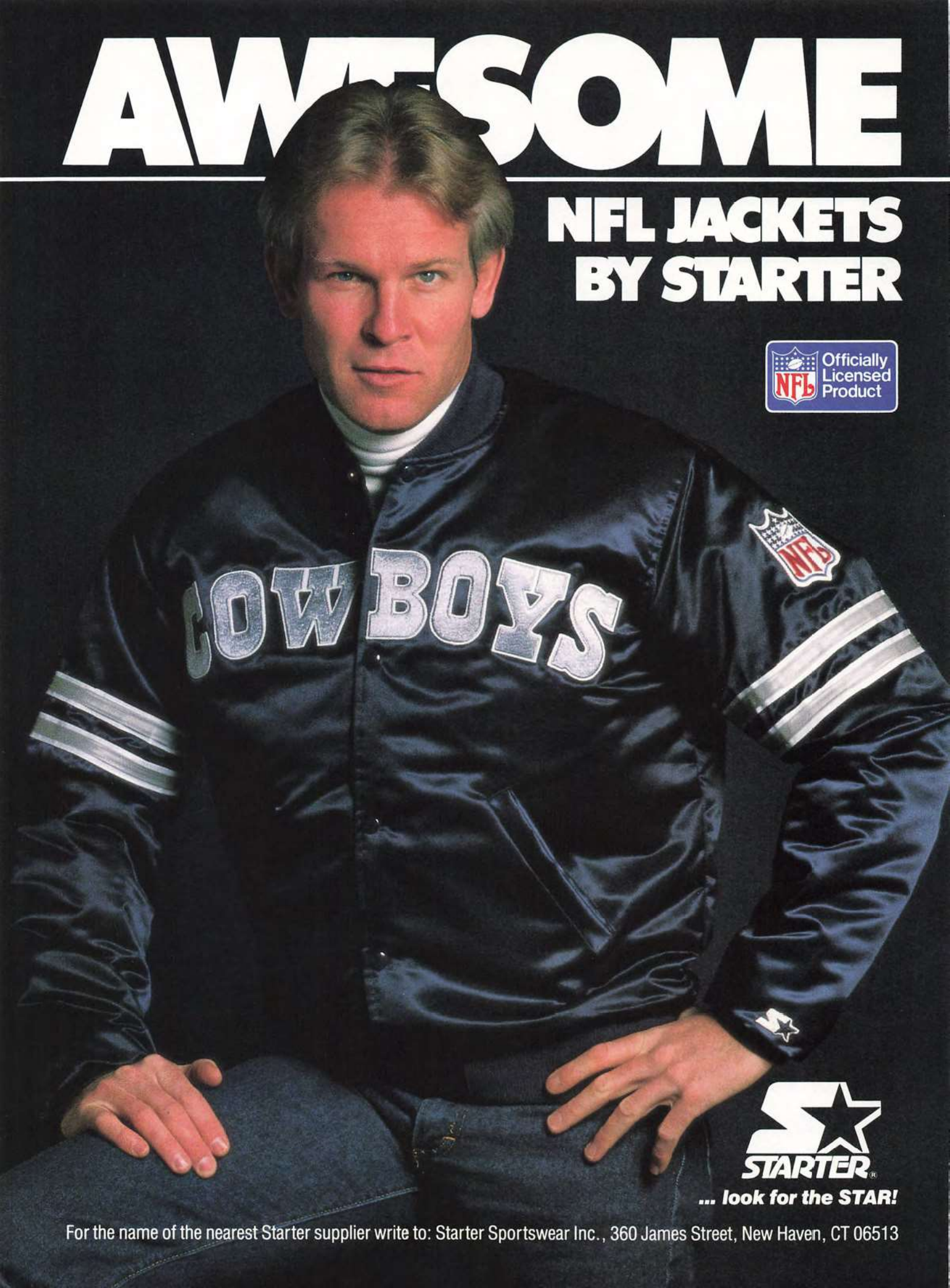
Ironically, some of the players from that game don't consider it to be their greatest game. Many of the Colts, for instance, instead favor their Western Conference-clinching 35-27 victory against San Francisco that same year, a game in which Baltimore had to rally from a 27-7 halftime deficit.

"As far as I'm concerned," says Johnny Unitas, "that 49ers game was better. I know I was a better quarterback than in the sudden-death game."

Sam Huff represents the feelings of many when he says, "I think it may have been the most exciting game ever played, and it was—and remains—the best matchup ever in a championship game."

Tom Landry, the Giants' defensive coordinator in 1958 who went on to coach in five Super Bowls with the Dallas Cowboys, may sum it up best. "If you mean most exciting," he says, "I'm sure there have been many games just as exciting. But there were some other forces at work for that game. The way everything blended together—the television, where the game was played, and the fact that pro football was ripe for expansion—was the key. I consider it to be the greatest game because of its impact."

"It was a game that had everything," says Chris Schenkel, who announced the game for NBC TV. "Action, drama, great performances and matchups—it captured the national imagination. I don't know if it was *the* greatest game ever played. But it *was* the greatest game ever played to make the sport popular."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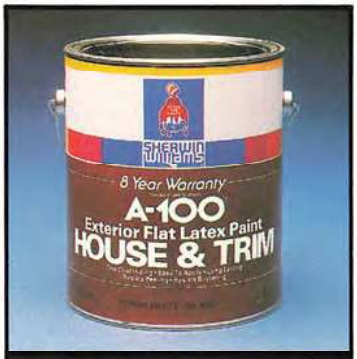

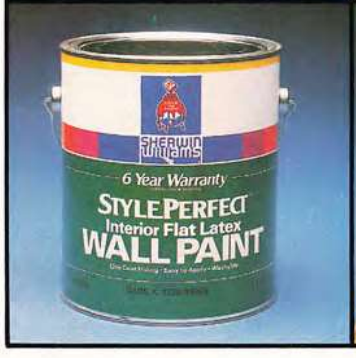

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play called "16 Power" through the right side of the line, instead of going behind Parker, the Colts' meal ticket, on the left.

As Unitas handed off to Ameche, Mutscheller and Moore leveled Livingston and Tunnell, Alex Sandusky and George Preas ripped open a gigantic hole on the line, and Ameche barreled into the end zone, literally falling from his own momentum. The Colts had won 23-17. There was no need for the extra point.

"They couldn't have stopped him if we'd needed ten yards," said Unitas.

There was 8:15 gone in the overtime when the Colts won the game, but many feel the Giants actually lost when Myhra kicked the game-tying field goal with seven seconds left in regulation.

"I remember standing next to Charlie Conerly on the sideline, watching the Colts drive down the field near the end of regulation," said Gifford. "He was really beat up, and he turned to me and said, 'I hope this doesn't go into overtime, because I can't go any more.' We had been driven to the limit so many times late in the year, I guess we just reached a breaking point there."

"We were completely spent," agreed Howell.

Unitas, the conquering hero, is mobbed.

Baltimore's men of the hour (l to r): Myhra, Unitas, Ameche.

United Press International

The Colts, younger and hungrier, were still lively. "At the beginning of overtime," said Moore, "it was almost like the opening kickoff. I had so much energy. I was fresh as a daisy. I could have played for three more hours."

No doubt Unitas, who was so brilliant in those last two drives (and who won the MVP award originally destined for Conerly), could have too.

"They were just giving us certain things," Unitas said, "and we were taking them. Berry was working back there on [Carl] Karilivacz, I believe it was, deep on his outside, and then we'd come back inside and work on a linebacker. They were just leaving it there, so we kept going back to it, taking advantage of it. We could just as easily have gone to the other side, but when you've got something like that going, you don't just give it up.

"We were also beating the linebacker, [Harland] Svare. We'd beat him deep...go behind him...and then we'd throw it in front of him next.

"Sam Huff was concerned about that little quick slant-in on the weakside. He was trying to help Svare and Karilivacz. But he should never have gotten out of the middle. If you can take care of your own responsibilities first, and then go back and help there too, fine, but he couldn't do both things at the same time. He never should have gotten so far out of his position. When he did that, he just left open the big play for Ameche [the back-breaking 23-yard trap].

"A defense always gives you something," Unitas said. "Any defense. You just have to pick and scratch until you find it."

The Giants, of course, didn't have just any defense. But Unitas wasn't just any quarterback.

A lot of quarterbacks can throw long. Unitas was one of the very few who could *pass* long. And he won with his head.

"The man was a genius," said Huff. "I never saw a quarterback that good on those two drives."

"I'll tell you," said Johnny Sample, a Colts defensive back in 1958 who also later had to play against Unitas, "he scared grown men silly just by taking the snap and looking your way."

Unitas and the Colts looked the Giants' way again the following season, as Baltimore and New York met once more in the NFL Championship Game. But the two teams didn't reprise their 1958 performance; the Colts won handily in Baltimore, 31-16.

Actually, no game before or since the 1958 classic has created such an impact on the sport. It stirred emotions in living rooms all over the nation. For many, it served as the first helping of what would become a national pastime in the decades to come: viewing televised pro football games on Sundays, Mondays, and even Thursdays. (It also helped procreate a new breed: the football widow.)

It was the dramatic nature of that 1958 championship game, the timing—the sports-hungry nation was turning to television for game coverage—and the fact that the game was played in New York that were the keys.

"Everything came together then for the greatness of pro football," says Rote. "New York is the heartbeat of the media—including Madison Avenue, where the commercial dollar is. Those ad men were young guys—young and sharp—and suddenly they happened to tie into pro football, just when television advertising was hitting its peak."

Remember how in The Wizard of Oz *the early scenes in Kansas were all shot in black and white? But when Dorothy and Toto touched down in Munchkin Land, the movie shifted to color.*

New York, in some ways, became the NFL's Oz, with television providing the wizardry.

But it was the 1958 championship game, the Greatest Game Ever Played, that took the NFL Over the Rainbow. ■

Five years ago, some of the Colts and Giants players who helped create their 1958 masterpiece got together for a rematch. This time the game was played in the heat of July, not in December; the action took place in New York, but on a softball field in Central Park, not in Yankee Stadium; and the game was six-man touch, not tackle. The Giants players, kneeling in the above photo, included (from left to right) Kyle Rote, Ray Wietecha, Frank Gifford, Charlie Conerly, Alex Webster, Dick Modzelewski, Rosie Brown, and Pat Summerall. The Colts, standing above, included (from left to right) Lenny Moore, Gino Marchetti, Art Donovan, Jim Parker, Johnny Unitas, Alan Ameche, Steve Myhra, and Raymond Berry. (That familiar face with the referee's jersey is Hall of Fame quarterback Sonny Jurgensen.)

There was plenty of *deja vu*, Moore beating the Giants deep ...Unitas throwing touchdown passes to Berry...and Gifford, Rote, and Webster combining for big plays.

Who won the game?

"We did [28-14]," Moore said. "Naturally."

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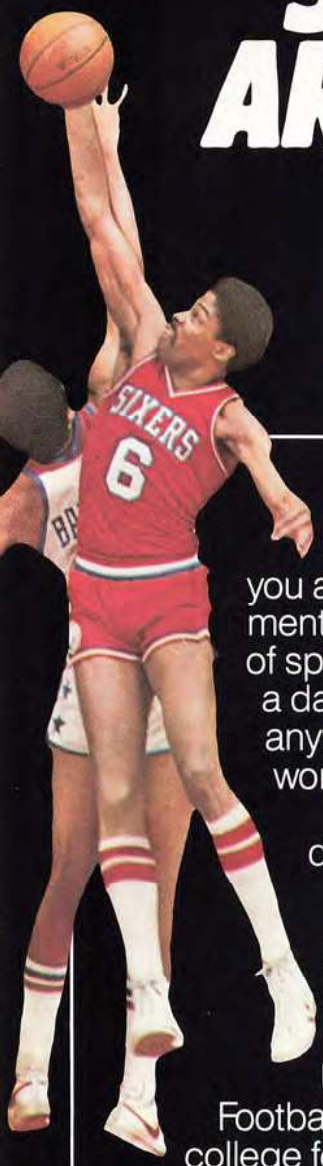

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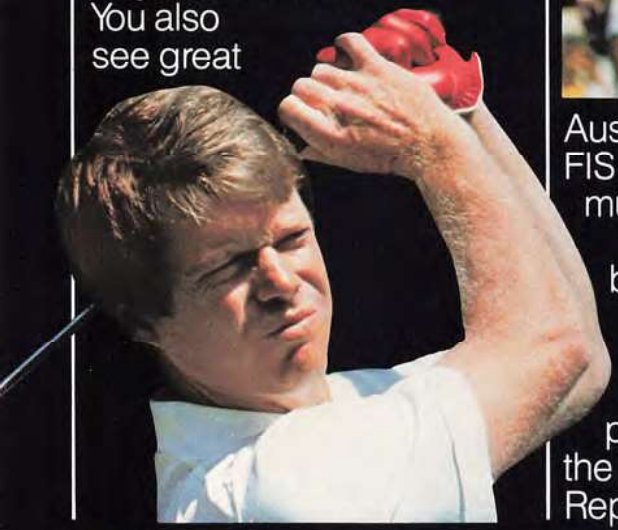

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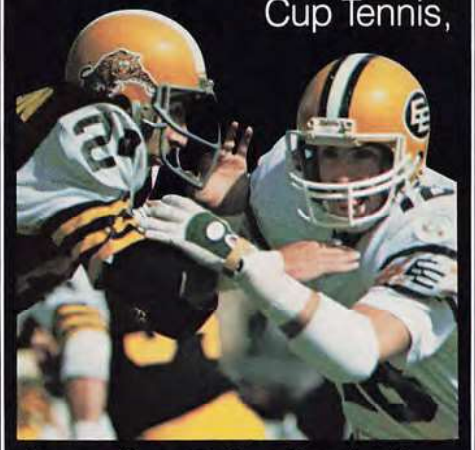

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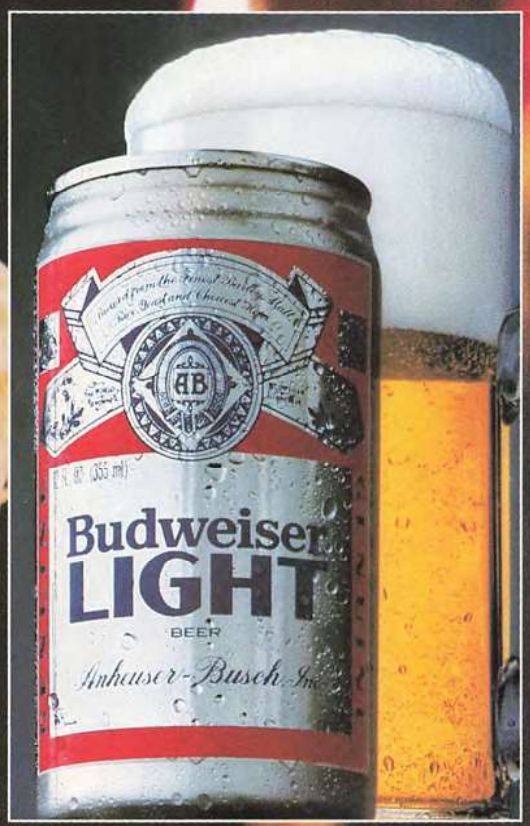

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RAIDERS VS. REDSKINS

FATE TIPPED ITS HAND IN OCTOBER; TODAY, THE NFL'S CHAMPION AND CHALLENGER PLAY THEIR FINAL CARDS.

Some things just are meant to be. Archimedes getting into the tub on the right day. Isaac Newton sitting under that particular apple tree. Alexander Graham Bell spilling battery acid and shouting for Watson. The world can spin in such a way as to make circumstance into history.

Not that all big events are hitched to a *deus ex machina* apparatus designed by Rube Goldberg, you understand. No, there are certain instances that, looking back, could have been predicted in a plastic, let alone crystal, ball.

For example, the Super Bowl XVIII teams. Not only did the defending NFL champion Washington Redskins and the Los Angeles Raiders have the best records in their respective conferences this year (the Redskins were 16-2 in the NFC, the Raiders 14-4 in the AFC), but they met—oh, did they meet!—in the fifth week of the season in Washington. We should have sensed Super Bowl then.

That was a game of ultimate theatrics, a game for purists of many preferences—offense, hard knocks, razzle-dazzle (there were seven touchdown passes, one of 99 yards, and a 97-yard punt return). If you were there in RFK Stadium or if you saw it on television, it is not one you will soon forget. Washington won 37-35, scoring 17 points in the final 6:15; the winning touchdown was a pass from Joe Theismann to Joe Washington with 33 seconds left to play. "I wouldn't be surprised if we met them again in January," Redskins guard Mark May said afterward.

Label this clash of titans inevitable, then, and perhaps it has been. Fate played no tricks in setting it up. Both teams clinched home-field advantages throughout the playoffs, then overpowered the competition the first two Sundays of this month. The only real suspense in any of the four games—the Redskins against the Los Angeles Rams and the San Francisco 49ers, the Raiders against the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Seattle Seahawks—came in the second half of the Washington-San Francisco game when the Redskins blew a 21-0 lead, then had to win 24-21 on Mark Moseley's field goal in the final minute.

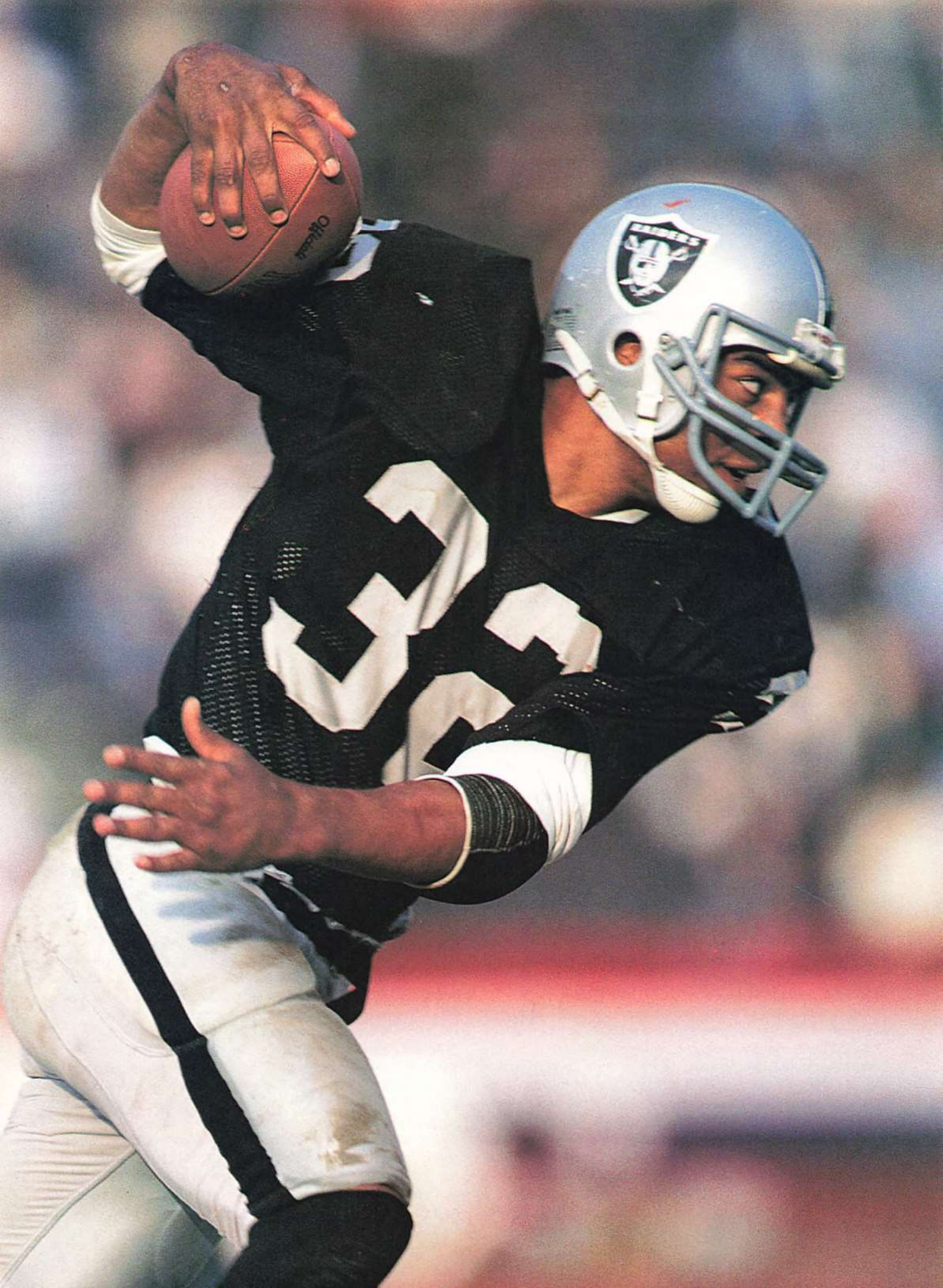
Therein lies the clue to the Achilles heel of the defending champion Redskins, who are 36-6 in their last 42 games under head coach Joe Gibbs. This is a superb team, on the edge of a legitimate claim to NFL dynastyhood. But though the Redskins were first in the league against the run, they were last against the pass. The 49ers' Joe Montana threw three touchdown passes in the final 15 minutes of the NFC Championship Game. In their two losses this year (31-30 to Dallas and 48-47 to Green Bay, both on Monday night), Washington surrendered a total of six touchdown passes. In their aforementioned victory over the Raiders, Los Angeles quarterback Jim Plunkett threw for four touchdowns.

So to win today, the Raiders will have to throw caution—and just about everything else—to the wind. If Plunkett, the quarterback who holds the unofficial record for most Comeback of the Year awards, has an off day and/or if the Raiders' top two offensive weapons—tight end Todd Christensen and running back Marcus Allen—are neutralized, then Los Angeles could be in for trouble. Because, except for the vulnerability against the pass (and, granted, that is a large exception), Washington has almost no discernible weaknesses.

The Redskins kept possession of the football longer than any other NFL team this year (33:44 per game) and led the league in touchdowns (63) and points (541). John Riggins, the human dynamo to end all human dynamos (and the one-man show in last year's postseason), scored a record 24 touchdowns in the regular season, then added 5 more in the playoffs. Not to be outdone, Theismann threw 29 touchdown passes in the regular season and 3 in the playoffs.

Make a mistake against the Redskins and they are apt to jam the football across your goal line. Washington led the league with a plus-43 in takeaways (an astonishing 61) and giveaways (only 18). The Raiders, it should be noted, had 23 turnovers in their four losses alone.

Yet when these two teams met in October, Los Angeles nearly pulled it out. The thrills and excitement then were matched by an epic number of personal wars on the field. It will not be different today. Super Bowl XVIII would figure to be a game more than worthy of its hype.



Los Angeles Raiders

There always is mystique to consider with the Raiders.

You know the prevailing images. . . walk-on-the-wild-side toughness. . . sand-kicking bullies. . . masters of psych. . . bruising intimidators. . . Darth Raider. . . a team of Clint Eastwoods and Charles Bronsons all garbed in menacing black.

Well, images—real or exaggerated—usually evaporate between the stripes. There are plenty of rugged, physical, intimidating teams—Washington, for one. But the real mystique, the one that matters, is the one of the winner. And the Raiders, year after year, decade after decade, forever find ways to win. Especially in the playoffs. That, more than anything else, is their hallmark. That's where their "pride and poise" motto comes from.

It is a team that plays with swagger, a swagger that may begin with a marauding defense, epitomized by its line.

"I think you'll find it true that on most teams, leadership comes from the defensive line," says Howie Long, the bruising third-year end who is one of eight Raiders who will play in the Pro Bowl next week. "Greg Townsend's from Watts, Bill Pickel's from Queens, Lyle Alzado's from Brownsville, and I'm from Boston. There's a toughness there you wouldn't find on a farm in Iowa."

That assault crew, along with nose tackle Reggie Kinlaw, played pinball with quarterbacks all season; the Raiders led the AFC in sacks with 57. They are a rugged gang to run against, too.

Even if the only football game you watch each year is the Super Bowl, the Raiders' starting linebackers may sound familiar; it is the same quartet that started for the Raiders in their Super Bowl XV victory: Bob Nelson, Rod Martin, Matt Millen, and Ted Hendricks.

Macho hombres, all. Hendricks, all 6 feet 7 inches of him, is anathema to kickers. Martin was the *UPI's* AFC defensive player of the year (and intercepted a record three passes in Super Bowl XV). Millen? He's a 255-pound grizzly who, as Long puts it, "is going to beat the hell out of you."

So will strong safety Mike Davis, free safety Vann McElroy, and the extraordinary cornerback tandem of Lester Hayes and Mike Haynes.

If the Raiders aren't quite as dominating on offense, it isn't because they are less aggressive. And it isn't because they aren't diverse.

It is because when you live by the big play, as the Raiders have for many years, you may also die by it. Cliché translation: The Raiders scored lots of points this year, 442 in the regular season, to be exact—most in the AFC. But they turned the ball over 49 times. In one particularly gruesome three-game span they had 19 turnovers.

That prompted the abbreviated benching of quarterback Jim Plunkett, who at the time was both throwing interceptions and fumbling. But Marc Wilson, the latest on a growing list of quarterbacks who have "replaced" Plunkett, separated a shoulder two games later. Then Plunkett, behind one of the best offensive lines in football, did what he has done best in his NFL career: He came back.

With some offensive adjustments that included throwing shorter, safer passes to tight end Todd Christensen (who caught 92 passes, the fourth-highest total ever in the NFL), and to running back Marcus Allen (who caught 68 passes in addition to running for 1,014 yards), the Raiders cut back on their gift-giving.

The big play still is a fixture in the Raiders' playbook. Allen, whom Flores calls his "total production back," threw three touchdown passes this year, and wide receiver Cliff Branch burned the Redskins with a Pyrrhic 99-yard touchdown catch in the regular season meeting (he pulled a hamstring on the play and was sidelined for several weeks).

Greg Pruitt, Chris Bahr, Ray Guy, and Odis McKinney are a few of the special people on the special teams. Pruitt led the league in punt returns, kicker Bahr was a last-second savior four times, Guy punted prodigiously, and McKinney, in addition to his Nickel back role, was a hunt-and-hit coverage kamikaze.

"In Denver we had a few guys who were off-center," says the former Denver Bronco and Cleveland Brown, Lyle Alzado. "Here, basically all of them are. We've got a lot of over-aggressive over-achievers."

Or as Long says, "When they give us our black to wear, we're baaaaaaaadd. It's like giving Samson his hair."

Marcus Allen gave himself a tough act to follow with his performance last year. But he turned in his first 1,000-yard season (1,014) in 1983, and scored 12 touchdowns rushing and 2 receiving (on 68 catches).

THE 14-4 SEASON OF 1983

Sept. 4 Plunkett drove the Raiders for two early scores, which bookended a Millen interception. Los Angeles 20, Cincinnati 10.
Sept. 11 The Raiders survived offensive mishaps with big defensive plays. Los Angeles 20, Houston 6.
Sept. 19 Allen rushed for 106 yards and Townsend returned a fumble 66 yards for a touchdown. Los Angeles 27, Miami 14.
Sept. 25 Touchdowns by Branch, interceptions by McElroy, and a big pass rush buried Denver. Los Angeles 27, Denver 14.
Oct. 2 Plunkett passed for 372 yards, Long had four sacks, but the Redskins rallied to win. Washington 37, Los Angeles 35.
Oct. 9 Hendricks blocked a 48-yard field goal with nine seconds left to preserve the victory. Los Angeles 21, Kansas City 20.
Oct. 16 Two late touchdowns made the score close, but eight turnovers were too much. Seattle 38, Los Angeles 36.
Oct. 23 Wilson passed for three scores. Bahr's fourth field goal, with 20 seconds left, won it. Los Angeles 40, Dallas 38.
Oct. 30 An overall flat performance on both sides of the ball spelled a second loss to the Seahawks. Seattle 34, Los Angeles 21.
Nov. 6 Plunkett relieved Wilson, who separated a shoulder, and led a fourth-quarter rally. Los Angeles 28, Kansas City 20.
Nov. 13 Plunkett completed four passes to Christensen in a last-minute drive. Bahr won it. Los Angeles 22, Denver 20.
Nov. 20 The Raiders squandered a 24-3 lead, but again won on a last-second field goal by Bahr. Los Angeles 27, Buffalo 24.
Nov. 27 Throwing "safe" passes behind superb protection, Plunkett dissected the Giants. Los Angeles 27, N.Y. Giants 12.
Dec. 1 Three touchdowns by Christensen and two by Hawkins clinched the AFC West title. Los Angeles 42, San Diego 10.
Dec. 11 The Raiders jumped out to a 24-7 lead, but then surrendered 27 unanswered points. St. Louis 34, Los Angeles 27.
Dec. 18 The offensive line dominated as Allen rushed for 78 yards and two touchdowns. Los Angeles 30, San Diego 14.
Jan. 1 A crowd of 90,334 witnessed a Raiders romp sparked by Allen (121 yards, two touchdowns). Los Angeles 38, Pittsburgh 10.
Jan. 8 L.A. owned the ground, air, and line of scrimmage. Los Angeles 30, Seattle 14.

Washington Redskins

Everyone wants to pinpoint the key to the Redskins, so let's get started. Los Angeles Rams head coach John Robinson took a stab at it just before his team met Washington in the playoffs.

"Their quarterback, in my opinion, is the best player in football today," Robinson said.

Meanwhile, Washington head coach Joe Gibbs was saying, "Everything we do on offense starts with running back John Riggins."

After the Redskins had battered the Rams 51-7, Rams defensive tackle Gary Jeter put in a vote for the Redskins' receivers. "Riggins can't beat you," Jeter said. "It's the plays to Charlie Brown and Art Monk. That's what beats you."

Sonny Jurgensen, a former Redskins quarterback, a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and currently a radio color commentator with the club, could have broken the tie. "If you want to know the real key to the team, it's their offensive line. That's their real greatness. They protect the passer and they block for the runners."

So that takes care of the offense, and the picture isn't getting much clearer. This business of discovering the key to the reigning world champions hasn't even touched on defense or special teams or coaching or management. . . .

Statistically (and here might lie another "key," who knows?), two items demand attention: the Redskins' NFL-record 541 points in the 16-game regular season and their plus-43 turnover ratio. As for the scoring record, it only suggests that if a team is averaging close to 34 points a game, an opponent might want to score, say, 35 or so.

The Raiders did just that about four months ago in Washington and lost 37-35. . .which brings up the question of defensive stability.

Although the Redskins' defense trails the offense in the nickname department, it did add a couple this year. Defensive end Tony McGee calls his linemates the Silent Roar. "Picture this," he says. "You see a lion in the distance. You can't hear him, but you get a chill by seeing him. That's us. We don't talk much. We just gobble up people."

So maybe it doesn't grab people the way Hogs, Smurfs, and the Fun Bunch did. Who needs a nickname when you are the toughest group to run against in the whole NFL, allowing a skimpy average of 80.6 yards rushing per game?

Pass defense? That's another story. . . and another nickname. This one went to the secondary, which was bombed so often this season (the Redskins allowed 248.4 yards passing, most in the league) that the defensive backs started calling themselves the Pearl Harbor Crew.

Lining up almost exclusively in their one-back offensive formation, the Redskins estimate they are capable of presenting the opposition with somewhere around 150 offensive formations. Situations dictate personnel changes, such as the three-tight end alignment Washington used to good effect in its NFC Championship Game victory over San Francisco. Motion, the kind that set up Riggins's record 42-yard touchdown run against Miami in Super Bowl XVII, only confounds the opposition that much more.

Joe Gibbs and special teams coach Wayne Sevier can be counted on to flavor all these permutations and combinations with another element—surprise. Against the 49ers two weeks ago, the "package" included a 36-yard pass from Riggins to Charlie Brown, Jeff Hayes's successful run from punt formation to keep a drive alive, and Nick Giaquinto's (barely illegal) cross-field overhand lateral pass to Darrell Green on a punt return.

None of these tricks was without its own special logic, but the catch was, the logic became clear to the opposition in hindsight. By the way, when was the last time holder Joe Theismann stood up, rolled out, and threw in a placekicking situation? Just asking, just asking.

Speaking of the kicking game, here's an area where the Redskins may be assailable, if not vulnerable. Hayes's 38.8-yard punting average was just okay, and Moseley's field goal percentage from beyond 30 yards was 61.1 (22 for 36). His four misses in the NFC Championship Game all were from between 30 and 45 yards.

So the key is. . .diversity. No one seems to know where the Redskins will be coming from next. Today, they're likely to regard the Super Bowl record book the same way they treat their playbook. Both are expandable.

To his honorary Hog title, John Riggins added a new sobriquet: The Diesel. This season Riggins turned the end zone into his private truck stop, scoring an NFL record 24 rushing touchdowns and gaining 1,347 yards.

THE 16-2 SEASON OF 1983

Sept. 5 The Redskins dominated the first half, but the Cowboys came back to win it. Dallas 31, Washington 30.

Sept. 11 Riggins had 100 yards; Theismann a scoring pass; Moseley kicked three field goals. Washington 23, Philadelphia 13.

Sept. 18 Theismann threw for two touchdowns in a second-half rally. Washington 27, Kansas City 12.

Sept. 25 Three touchdown passes by Theismann tucked the Seahawks away. Washington 27, Seattle 17.

Oct. 2 In a sensational game, the Redskins rallied with 17 points in the last seven minutes. Washington 37, L.A. Raiders 35.

Oct. 9 Riggins starred with 115 yards and three touchdowns in a fifth straight victory. Washington 38, St. Louis 14.

Oct. 17 In a wild Monday night shootout, the Packers got in the most shots. Green Bay 48, Washington 47.

Oct. 23 Washington, in for Riggins, ran for 147 yards and caught a touchdown pass in the rain. Washington 38, Detroit 17.

Oct. 31 After missing four of five, Moseley kicked the field goal that counted with four seconds left. Washington 27, San Diego 24.

Nov. 6 The defense and special teams scored or set up 31 points; Riggins scored 12. Washington 45, St. Louis 7.

Nov 13 Riggins (two touchdowns), Moseley (four field goals), and four takeaways were keys. Washington 33, N.Y. Giants 17.

Nov. 20 The Redskins outmuscled, outhustled, and outgained the Rams, 467 yards to 191. Washington 42, L.A. Rams 20.

Nov. 27 Riggins clinched a touchdown record, the Redskins clinched a playoff spot. Washington 28, Philadelphia 24.

Dec. 4 Moseley kicked for an NFL season record 147 points, the Redskins kicked the Falcons. Washington 37, Atlanta 21.

Dec. 11 The season's most anticipated rematch turned into a mismatch at Texas Stadium. Washington 31, Dallas 10.

Dec. 17 Theismann, after a shaky first half, threw for two scores and ran for one. Washington 31, N.Y. Giants 22.

Jan. 1 The Rams never knew what hit them, as a downpour turned into a deluge . . .again. Washington 51, L.A. Rams 7.

Jan. 8 Two 49ers' penalties aided the winning drive. Washington 24, San Francisco 21.

Rushing

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

"We're going to give it to him any way we can," Tom Flores says of Marcus Allen. "Total production is the way I look at him."

Allen, the NFL's offensive rookie of the year in 1982, saw his yards-per-carry figure drop from 4.4 to 3.8 this season. What's more, his longest run from scrimmage was 19 yards, hardly reminiscent of his 1981 Heisman Trophy status while at USC.

But in postseason play, Allen's 121 rushing yards against Pittsburgh in the playoff opener and his 154 against Seattle in the AFC Championship Game speak of Flores's willingness to grant Marcus's wish: more carries per game. He handled the ball only 13 times against the Steelers, 25 against the Seahawks.

Allen's backup, 11-year veteran Greg Pruitt, didn't carry the ball often, but his 5.9-yard average was the best among NFL running backs.

Starting fullback Kenny King and compact Frank Hawkins (526 yards and a 4.8-yard average), who actually plays more than King, complement Allen with toughness in short-yardage situations. Both can block, too, maybe as well as Hawkins's own estimate:

"They say, 'Can you block this guy?' I say, 'If he's got pants on, I can block him, no matter how big or how small.' I'm like the Mounties. I always get my man."

Even the Mounties need horses to carry them, and with the Raiders the herd is led by 10-year veteran tackle Henry Lawrence (6-4, 270), who teams with guard Mickey Marvin (6-4, 265) and center Dave Dalby (6-3, 250) to make "right" the team's favorite rushing direction.

The left side is marked by both relative inexperience and improvement. Seven-year veteran guard Charley Hannah (6-5, 260) and five-year veteran tackle Bruce Davis (6-6, 280) start.

Veteran utility lineman Steve Sylvester has been with the club for his entire nine-year NFL career, and his work in the AFC Championship Game demonstrated a certain familiarity with the Raiders' scheme. But beyond Sylvester, skills and readiness are questionable in the cases of tackle Shelby Jordan and guard Don Mosebar.

Watch for quarterback Jim Plunkett to reverse an old adage and use the pass to set up the run, a gambit that worked well for the Raiders in their Super Bowl XV victory over Philadelphia. Then watch for Marcus. Then watch for Marcus again.

RUSHING	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Allen	266	1014	3.8	19	9
Hawkins	110	526	4.8	32	6
King	82	294	3.6	16	1
Pruitt	26	154	5.9	18	2
Wilson	13	122	9.4	23	0
Plunkett	26	78	3.0	20	0
Berns	6	22	3.7	13	0
Branch	1	20	20.0	20	0
Barnwell	1	12	12.0	12	0
Montgomery	2	7	3.5	5	0
Jensen	1	5	5.0	5	0
Willis	5	0	0.0	4	0
Humm	1	−1	−1.0	−1	0
Guy	2	−13	−6.5	−3	0

King was an offensive hero in the Raiders' Super Bowl XV victory.

Hawkins is a prominent threat; he averaged 4.8 yards per carry in 1983.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Jack Youngblood is a witness for the defense.

The 13-year veteran of the Los Angeles Rams says, "John Riggins makes the Redskins great. He's my size, and he's running with the ball. He's the kind of guy you'd like to go to war with."

The Redskins went to war with Riggins often during the 1983 season. He rushed for 1,347 yards on 375 carries (third most in NFL history) and scored a league-record 24 touchdowns.

When Washington keeps the ball on the ground (which they did 58 percent of the time during the regular season), Riggins is the workhorse. He was responsible for 100 of the 165 rushing first downs the Redskins accumulated. Of his 375 carries, 323 were on first or second down. He was 8 of 9 on fourth-down conversions and 31 of 43 on third-and-short (one, two, or three yards). He's also dependable: only five fumbles (three lost) and just 12 of his attempts resulted in negative yardage.

The Redskins, contrary to popular belief, aren't a one-man running attack. Joe Washington, who's playing this year after surgery on both knees during the offseason, averaged 5.3 yards per carry. When Riggins was forced to miss the Detroit game (Week Eight), Washington filled in by rushing for 147 yards, high for the Redskins this year.

Quarterback Joe Theismann gives the Redskins' ground game an added dimension. And Theismann has been known to call reverses to his wide receivers.

Finesse is not in Washington's running game vocabulary. Their game is power and brute strength—Riggins off tackle, Riggins up the middle, Riggins on the counter play behind Russ Grimm and Joe Jacoby.

Grimm and Jacoby are the left side of the Hogs offensive line. They team with center Jeff Bostic, right guard Mark May, and right tackle George Starke.

Only once in the last 26 games have the Hogs seen their running game held under 100 yards. Guess who did it?

The Raiders—linebacker Rod Martin in particular—limited them to 98 yards, 91 by Riggins, in the October 2 game at RFK. Martin was credited with 12 tackles and 8 of those came on plays when Riggins carried the ball.

The key to the Redskins' running successes in the rematch will be their ability to control the Raiders' linebacking corps. Grimm, May, and tight ends Rick Walker and Don Warren will bear the brunt of that responsibility. And the play of Bostic on nose tackle Reggie Kinlaw will be instrumental in determining who wins the line of scrimmage.

RUSHING	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Riggins	375	1347	3.6	44	24
J. Washington	145	772	5.3	41	0
Theismann	37	234	6.3	22	1
Wonsley	25	88	3.5	9	0
Hayes	2	63	31.5	48	0
Brown	4	53	13.3	17	0
Giaquinto	14	53	3.8	11	1
Holly	4	13	3.3	13	0
Evans	16	11	0.7	5	4
Walker	2	10	5.0	11	0
Garrett	2	0	0.0	4	0
Monk	3	−19	−6.3	2	0

The Redskins' rushing attack is Hog heaven, featuring a powerful phalanx that clears openings for the NFL's one-man thundering herd—Riggins.

Passing

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

The reclamation project to end all reclamation projects, Jim Plunkett, is back in the Super Bowl.

Plunkett, the most valuable player in Super Bowl XV, has been thrown away three times in his 13-year career and always has picked himself up, dusted himself off, and come back, if not better, at least as good as ever.

First the New England Patriots gave up on their Heisman Trophy-winning, number-one draft choice after five years. Next San Francisco waived him after three seasons before the Raiders picked him up in 1979. Even the AFC champions gave up on him midway through this season, benching him in favor of fourth-year quarterback Marc Wilson. But Wilson broke his shoulder in his third start (Week 10) and Plunkett was summoned from the bench once again. He pulled the Raiders back to beat Kansas City in that game and has been winning ever since.

He reeled off five more victories in six regular season starts, and added two sparkling performances in the playoffs to lead the Raiders into their fourth Super Bowl.

Plunkett finished fifth among AFC passers, gaining 2,935 yards and throwing for 20 touchdowns.

Plunkett is especially effective at the short-passing game to tight end Todd Christensen and running back Marcus Allen, who was the Raiders' main offensive weapon in the playoffs. Christensen led the NFL with 92 catches for 1,247 yards and 12 touchdowns during the regular season. Allen caught 68 passes for 590 yards and two scores.

Still, the threat of throwing deep always is present. The vertical passing game long has been a Raiders trademark, and Plunkett has the arm to loft the long ones to Cliff Branch and Malcolm Barnwell.

Branch averaged 17.8 yards on his 39 receptions, which went for five touchdowns. He is the one who normally draws double coverage, which frees Barnwell one-on-one with a defensive back. In the AFC Championship Game, Barnwell made five catches for 116 yards and set up two touchdowns, while Branch fought double coverage. Barnwell caught 35 for 513 yards and one score during the regular season.

If the Raiders go to a three wide receiver formation, Calvin Muhammad and rookie Dokie Williams also can be deep threats.

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	TDs	Int.	Rating
Plunkett	379	230	2935	60.7	20	18	82.7
Wilson	117	67	864	57.3	8	6	82.0
Allen	7	4	111	57.1	3	0	141.4
Pruitt	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	39.6

RECEIVING	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Christensen	92	1247	13.6	45	12
Allen	68	590	8.7	36	2
Branch	39	696	17.8	99	5
Barnwell	35	513	14.7	41	1
Hawkins	20	150	7.5	28	2
Williams	14	259	18.5	50	3
King	14	149	10.6	34	1
Muhammad	13	252	19.4	45	2
Hasselbeck	3	24	8.0	13	2
Montgomery	2	29	14.5	15	0
Pruitt	1	6	6.0	6	0
Jensen	1	2	2.0	2	1

Plunkett: a survivor and a proven winner.

Branch: the Raiders' ubiquitous bomb threat.

Christensen: most catches, most touchdowns.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Last year, prior to Super Bowl XVII, head coach Joe Gibbs was asked about the Redskins' tactics for their game against the Dolphins.

"Any coach who tells you he's going to do the same thing he did last week is lying," Gibbs said. "There could be twenty percent change, sometimes as much as forty."

Let the Raiders beware that Gibbs might have a gimmick or two in store.

Gibbs is comfortable with these innovations because of Joe Theismann, the acknowledged offensive leader of the Redskins.

Theismann does not endorse a bombs-away attack. The staple of his passing game is the medium-distance toss to his wide receivers, most notably Charlie Brown, Alvin Garrett, and Art Monk.

The favorite target is Brown, who tied for second in the NFC in receptions (78 for a 15.7-yard average). Monk was injured during the early part of the season and did not catch a pass until Week Five (against the Raiders). He finished with 47 catches for a 15.9 average.

The most telling statistical line belongs to Joe Washington, the Redskins' designated receiver out of the backfield in passing situations. Washington had 47 catches, 6 for touchdowns.

Washington was at his receiving best against the Raiders last October. He caught five passes for 99 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

Brown also had a day to remember: 11 receptions for an NFC season-high 180 yards and one touchdown.

Theismann's stats—23 of 39 for 417 yards and three touchdowns—were equally as impressive...except that he was sacked 6 times (he was brought down 34 times the entire season).

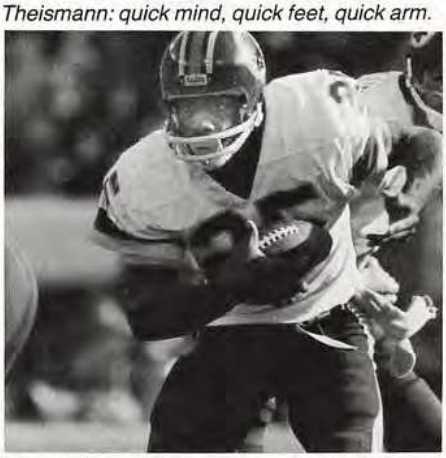
The key to Washington's passing game will be the Redskins' ability to avoid second- and third-and-long situations, the pass rushers' bread and butter. The Hogs will have to protect Theismann from the NFL's second-leading pass rush. The main matchup may be George Starke against Howie Long, who had four sacks in the October game.

John Riggins is not much of a factor in the passing game. He had only five catches during the regular season. But he has thrown two passes (one against the 49ers in the NFC Championship Game). Monk and Joe Washington have attempts to their credit, too, adding to the gimmick plays the Raiders must think about.

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	TDs	Int.	Rating
Theismann	459	276	3714	60.1	29	11	97.0
Monk	1	1	46	100.0	0	0	118.8
Holly	1	1	5	100.0	0	0	87.5
Riggins	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	39.6
J. Washington	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	39.6

RECEIVING	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Brown	78	1225	15.7	75	8
Monk	47	746	15.9	43	5
J. Washington	47	454	9.7	67	6
Giaquinto	27	372	13.8	35	0
Garrett	25	332	13.3	84	1
Warren	20	225	11.3	33	2
Walker	17	168	9.9	29	2
Didier	9	153	17.0	40	4
Riggins	5	29	5.8	14	0
Seay	2	55	27.5	39	1
McGrath	1	6	6.0	6	0

Theismann: quick mind, quick feet, quick arm.



Washington: rusher's moves, receiver's hands.

Brown: the ability to get open and score.

Monk: strong short, but most dangerous deep.

Rushing Defense

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

The obvious way to beat the Redskins on the ground is to stop big John Riggins. To stop Riggins, the Raiders must drive wedges into his huge offensive wall and get backfield penetration. That makes nose tackle Reggie Kinlaw the man in the middle in more ways than one. The point man of the Raiders' defensive line, Kinlaw will be sandwiched between the surge of the defense and the rush of the offense. The way he handles Redskins center Jeff Bostic could have a profound ripple effect. If Kinlaw can push Bostic backwards, clogging the middle, Riggins will be forced to the outside, where he not only is less effective, but where he will be in the territories of the Raiders' Pro Bowl-bound outside linebackers Ted Hendricks, a big-play man in big games, and Rod Martin, the team's leading tackler.

One way the Raiders will make Kinlaw's task easier is by not lining up head-to-head with the Redskins' linemen. Such offset positioning creates more difficult blocking angles and opens up the possibilities for more stunts involving defensive linemen and linebackers.

Flanking Kinlaw in the Raiders' basic 3-4 set are ends Lyle Alzado and Howie Long, a Pro Bowl pick. Both are rough customers but they will have their hands full with the Redskins' oversize tackles. How well the 6-foot 3-inch, 260-pound Alzado and the 6-foot 5-inch, 270-pound Long can fight off the blocks of Joe Jacoby and George Starke, respectively, and then handle Riggins could be a factor that increases in importance as the game progresses. The Redskins feel they can wear down most defenses with their punishing ground attack. That should make for an interesting attitudinal matchup against the Raiders' tough guy, hit-us-with-your-best-shot style of defense.

If the outside can be closed off and the middle clogged, Riggins can be expected to try to cut back off the blocks of his pulling linemen, usually slanting over the tackle against the flow of the play. Under such circumstances it is imperative that inside linebackers Matt Millen and Bob Nelson not overrun the play, although the 255-pound Millen has the upper body strength and low center of gravity to bring Riggins down when off balance. If Riggins, or Joe Washington, does get into the secondary, cornerbacks Lester Hayes and Mike Haynes, and safeties Mike Davis and Vann McElroy (the team's second-leading tackler) provide swarming pursuit.

The Raiders are strong believers in situation substitution to alter fronts, stunts, and coverages. Expect to see rookies Greg Townsend and Bill Pickel, and veterans Dave Stalls and Johnny Robinson come in on the defensive line. Jack Squirek and Jeff Barnes are rotated in as linebackers. The most critical situations they could face—probably from a six-man front—are the short-yardage third or fourth downs, or near the goal line when everyone in the stadium expects Riggins to carry the ball.

The Raiders are rugged inside, and Millen is as rugged as they come.

Martin (53), Pickel (71), and McKinney (23): gang tackling is a forte.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Against the Redskins, opposing teams usually go to the air early and often, due both to Washington's own explosive offense and its unyielding rushing defense, which ranked first in the NFL in 1983, giving up 80.6 yards per game.

The Redskins are one of only a handful of NFL teams that still use the 4-3 defense almost exclusively. The heart of that defense is a big, strong line, and the heart of the line is tackle Dave Butz, all 6 feet 7 inches, 295 pounds of him. An 11-year veteran who is both the physical and emotional leader of the Redskins' defense, and who was named to his first Pro Bowl this year, Butz is usually double-teamed; he's just too much for one player to handle.

"Teams have finally realized that you can't run directly at Dave Butz," says Redskins defensive line coach LaVern Torgeson. "If you do that, you're going right at his strength. At the same time, his pursuit is simply amazing for a player his size."

Surrounding Butz are left end Todd Liebenstein (6-6, 255) and right tackle Darryl Grant (6-1, 275), both of whom read offensive blocking combinations well and, like Butz, pursue relentlessly. They play for the most part only on running downs, being replaced by Tony McGee and Perry Brooks in likely passing situations.

Right end Dexter Manley, the quickest, but smallest (6-3, 250) of the defensive linemen, remains in on all downs with Butz.

The Redskins' defense is predicated on their linemen occupying the offensive blockers on rushing downs, allowing the linebackers to make most of the tackles. Middle linebacker Neal Olkewicz led the team in tackles (140) despite frequently only being in on first-down plays. The outside linebackers are Rich Milot, who plays every down, and Mel Kaufman. At times, speedy Monte Coleman replaces either Olkewicz or Kaufman.

The Washington secondary also plays a significant role against the rush.

"One of the reasons we play the run so well is that we fly to the ball," says cornerback Vernon Dean. "That's part of being physical. We have a brawling type defense, and our secondary takes pride in that we are all hitters."

Free safety Mark Murphy, a Pro Bowl choice, is the leader of that secondary, and the number-two tackler on the team (132). But Murphy, like part-time strong safety Curtis Jordan, reads the run key too quickly at times, commits to the force, and is therefore susceptible to play action.

The Redskins will have a tougher assignment against the rush today than when they met the Raiders in October. The presence of halfback Marcus Allen may cause Liebenstein and Manley to be more concerned with runs to the outside than containment at the line of scrimmage. Allen will also have an effect on how the Redskins' secondary comes up to meet the rushing attack.

The Redskins are grudging against the run; no one was tougher in 1983.

NFL interception leader Murphy is equally formidable stopping the run.

Passing Defense

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

The Raiders play pressure defense on every down. They come at opposing quarterbacks with a big rush and dare them to throw into man-to-man pass coverage from the 3-4. On certain passing downs, the alignment changes to a four-man front with five, six, or even seven defensive backs. The pressure remains constant, however.

"I've been here seven years," strong safety Mike Davis says, "and I can't remember a pass rush like this one."

Thirteen different players contributed to the Raiders' AFC-leading total of 57 regular-season sacks in 1983. Defensive end Howie Long led the team with 13, followed by rookie end Greg Townsend with 10½, end Lyle Alzado with 7, and linebacker Rod Martin and rookie end Bill Pickel with 6 each.

To neutralize the Raiders' rush, Redskins quarterback Joe Theismann could rely heavily on play-action fakes to running back John Riggins and sprint-outs away from the pocket. Inside linebackers Matt Millen and Bob Nelson must respect the threat of Riggins without allowing themselves to be frozen out of pass coverage.

If Theismann strays from the pocket on designed plays—or is chased out—it will be up to Alzado or Long, supported by outside linebackers Martin and Ted Hendricks, to contain him. Hendricks will pose unique problems for Theismann; he has the flexibility, and carte blanche, to freelance, lining up and dogging from various positions.

On third-and-long situations, the Raiders shift to a four-man front, with Alzado and Townsend at the ends and Pickel and Long at the tackles. Martin and Hendricks stay at linebacker, and Odis McKinney comes in as a Nickel back. The starting secondary, cornerbacks Lester Hayes and Mike Haynes, and safeties Vann McElroy and Davis, remains in place. James Davis, Kenny Hill, and Ted Watts—a starter until perennial all-pro Haynes was acquired in early November—come in as situational substitutes.

McElroy led the team with eight interceptions. Martin was second with four. Hayes (like McElroy, a Pro Bowl selection) had two, and added two more in the playoffs, one of which he returned for a touchdown against Pittsburgh. Mike Davis picked off two passes against Seattle in the AFC Championship Game; Millen and McElroy each also had one in that game. The Raiders ranked only thirteenth in overall pass defense in the NFL in 1983, giving up an average of 197.6 yards per game. But that figure is deceiving, since opponents behind in the score often were forced to throw against the Raiders.

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
McElroy	8	68	8.5	28	0
Martin	4	81	20.3	40	2
Hayes	2	49	24.5	28	0
Millen	1	14	14.0	14	0
Watts	1	13	13.0	13	0
J. Davis	1	10	10.0	10	0
M. Davis	1	3	3.0	3	0
Haynes	1	0	0.0	0	0
McKinney	1	0	0.0	0	0

Alzado, a 13-year veteran, still stalks quarterbacks relentlessly.

McElroy's eight interceptions led one of the NFL's best secondaries.

Townsend (93) and Long: key components of Raiders' assault crew.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

What can you say about a team whose pass defense was last in the NFL? Well, in this case, you can say the Washington Redskins are in the Super Bowl, so it couldn't have hurt them too badly.

The strength of Washington's pass defense is its ability to make the big play. Although the Redskins gave up almost 250 passing yards per game, they led the NFL in interceptions in 1983 (34) and also recorded 51 sacks.

Those numbers (both negative and positive) were due partially to a stifling rushing defense that forced opposing teams to pass frequently. Armed with expectations of the pass, the Redskins have substituted liberally and often, with up to five changes in personnel on passing downs.

On the defensive line, end Tony McGee and tackle Perry Brooks usually replace Todd Liebenstein and Darryl Grant in passing situations. McGee finished third on the team with 10 sacks, following the 11½ by tackle Dave Butz and the 11 by end Dexter Manley.

The Redskins normally aren't a frequent stunting team, but they should be mixing their fronts up today and coming hard, because Jim Plunkett is less mobile than many quarterbacks. (The Redskins sacked him five times when the two teams met in October.) They also can be expected to dog or blitz a linebacker or deep back about one-sixth of the time, which is about average for an NFL team.

Rich Milot plays all the time at right linebacker, but Neal Olkewicz and Mel Kaufman are replaced on obvious passing downs. Monte Coleman is an outstanding pass defender who is the second linebacker in medium to long-yardage situations.

The Redskins show a preference for man-to-man coverage, but the threat of Cliff Branch long might force them into more zone coverage.

Cornerback Darrell Green most likely will be expected to cover Malcolm Barnwell one-on-one, allowing free safety Mark Murphy (the NFL interception leader with nine) to help Anthony Washington on Branch. Strong safeties Ken Coffey and Curtis Jordan will probably get to know tight end Todd Christensen very well. Vernon Dean is the usual Nickel back, and Brian Carpenter comes in when the Redskins want six defensive backs.

Yes, the Redskins do occasionally play a three-man line. In the last two minutes of the half or game, watch for Washington to drop into a Prevent defense. At least that's what they'll do if they're ahead. . .and they usually are.

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Murphy	9	127	14.1	48	0
Dean	5	54	10.8	26	0
Coffey	4	62	15.5	29	0
A. Washington	4	12	3.0	8	0
Kaufman	2	93	46.5	70	1
G. Williams	2	25	12.5	25	0
Milot	2	20	10.0	20	0
Green	2	7	3.5	7	0
Jordan	1	20	20.0	20	0
Olkewicz	1	14	14.0	14	0
Carpenter	1	2	2.0	2	0
Manley	1	1	1.0	1	0

Manley is a big-play specialist—he had 11 sacks for the Silent Roar.

Green's blinding speed and recent improvement aid the secondary.

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*Use for comparison. Your mileage may vary with speed, trip length, weather. Actual highway and CA figures lower.

Manufacturer's suggested retail price. Tax, license, destination charges, rear deck spoiler $72, wheel covers $90, and regional equipment extra. **Built by American Motors

RENAULT

THE ONE TO WATCH

Special Teams

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

If the NFL were to hand out awards based on special teams excellence, it's a good bet the Raiders would bag most of the honors for 1983.

For starters, there's AFC-NFC Pro Bowl selection Greg Pruitt. All he did was set an NFL record for most punt return yardage (666) in one season. Pruitt averaged 11.5 yards per punt return, with his longest effort being the 97-yarder he returned for a touchdown against the Redskins on October 2.

Pruitt (604 yards, 19.5 average) and 5-foot 8-inch Cle Montgomery (brother of Philadelphia's Wilbert) form a potent kickoff return unit. Montgomery ranked eighth in the AFC, picking up 464 yards for a 22.1 average.

Ray Guy bounced back from the only season in his 11-year career in which he averaged less than 40 yards per punt (39.1 in 1982) to finish fifth in the AFC with a solid 42.8 average.

Chris Bahr, who hasn't missed a game since entering the league in 1976 with Cincinnati, was the AFC's third-leading scorer with 114 points, just behind Gary Anderson of Pittsburgh and Kansas City's Nick Lowery. Bahr connected on 21 of 27 field goals (his longest was 47 yards) and 51 of 53 extra points.

As a team, the Raiders finished second in the NFL in overall special teams efficiency, based on kickoff and punt net yardage and field goal statistics.

Unlike many clubs, the Raiders use some of their best players on special teams, including Pro Bowl selections Todd Christensen, (who is the team's long snapper), Rod Martin, and Lester Hayes.

As special teams coach Steve Ortmayer puts it: "We use the best players for what we're trying to accomplish."

PUNTING	No.	Yards	Avg.	Touch-backs	Inside 20	Long
Guy	78	3336	42.8	10	17	67

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Pruitt	58	16	666	11.5	97	1

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Montgomery	21	464	22.1	48	0
Pruitt	31	604	19.5	42	0
Williams	5	88	17.6	19	0
Millen	2	19	9.5	10	0
Jensen	1	0	0.0	0	0
Martin	1	0	0.0	0	0

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
Bahr	0-0	9-11	8-9	4-6	0-1	21-27

Pruitt had NFL's longest punt return, 97 yards.

Bahr has been reliable in pressure situations.

Giaquinto epitomizes Redskins' special teams.

Moseley set NFL record for kicking points, 161.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

If the NFC Championship Game against San Francisco was any indication of how the Redskins' special teams are going to play today, the Raiders better be ready for the unexpected. Two weeks ago, Washington used a fourth-down run by the punter, a reverse on a kickoff, and a lateral pass on a punt return (the lateral was ruled forward, which nullified a touchdown).

Leading the Redskins' special teams is kicker Mark Moseley, who this season set an NFL record for most points scored kicking with 161. Moseley's field goal kicking has been erratic at times (he made only 33 of 47 attempts in 1983), but as he showed against the 49ers, he comes through in the clutch.

The punting duties are handled by second-year man Jeff Hayes. Hayes does not kick for a high average (38.8 in the regular season), but still is a weapon because of the great hang time he gets on his punts. He also is a dangerous runner; he averaged 31.5 yards per carry (on two attempts this year) and came up with a big run for a first down against the 49ers. Hayes also kicks off.

Washington will get a great boost if kick returner Mike Nelms comes back from a knee injury. Nelms, considered one of the NFL's most explosive return men, finished third in the NFC with a 22.9-yard average. He also brought back 38 punts for a 7.6-yard average. If Nelms is unable to play, look for Virgil Seay (also questionable because of an injury) and Nick Giaquinto to take over on punt returns, and Seay and Alvin Garrett to handle the kickoff returns.

PUNTING	No.	Yards	Avg.	Touch-backs	Inside 20	Long
Hayes	72	2796	38.8	2	29	56

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Seay	5	1	57	11.4	42	0
Nelms	38	1	289	7.6	35	0
Green	4	0	29	7.3	18	0
Giaquinto	2	4	12	6.0	12	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Garrett	2	50	25.0	28	0
Seay	9	218	24.2	50	0
Nelms	35	802	22.9	41	0
Wonsley	2	36	18.0	20	0
Cronan	1	17	17.0	17	0
J. Washington	1	16	16.0	16	0
Evans	10	141	14.1	28	0
G. Williams	1	6	6.0	6	0
Giaquinto	1	0	0.0	0	0

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
Moseley	1-1	10-10	14-19	7-14	1-3	33-47

Los Angeles Raiders

How They Were Built

Year	Draft (31)	Trades (7)	Free Agents (11) Waivers (0)
1972 *10-4-1* *1st, AFC West*	*WR* Cliff Branch *(4A)* *C* Dave Dalby *(4B)*		
1973 *10-5-1* *1st, AFC West*	*P* Ray Guy *(1)*		
1974 *13-3-0* *1st, AFC West*	*T* Henry Lawrence *(1)*		
1975 *12-4-0* *1st, AFC West*	*C-G* Steve Sylvester *(10)*		*LB* Ted Hendricks *(FA)*
1976 *16-1-0* *Super Bowl XI* *Champion*			
1977 *12-4-0* *2nd, AFC West*	*S* Mike Davis *(2)* *G* Mickey Marvin *(4)* *CB* Lester Hayes *(5A)* *LB* Jeff Barnes *(5B)*		*LB* Rod Martin *(FA)*
1978 *9-7-0* *2nd, AFC West*	*TE* Derrick Jensen *(3A)*		*QB* Jim Plunkett *(FA)*
1979 *9-7-0* *4th, AFC West*	*T* Bruce Davis *(11)* *NT* Reggie Kinlaw *(12)*		*TE* Todd Christensen *(FA)*
1980 *15-5-0* *Super Bowl XV* *Champion*	*QB* Mark Wilson *(1)* *LB* Matt Millen *(2)* *WR* Malcolm Barnwell *(7)* *S* Kenny Hill *(8)* *WR* Calvin Muhammad *(12)*	*RB* Kenny King *(from Houston)* *S* Odis McKinney *(from N.Y. Giants)*	*K* Chris Bahr *(FA)* *LB* Bob Nelson *(FA)*
1981 *7-9-0* *4th, AFC West*	*CB* Ted Watts *(1A)* *DE* Howie Long *(2)* *NT* Johnny Robinson *(4)* *CB* James Davis *(5)* *RB* Frank Hawkins *(10)* *RB* Chester Willis *(11)*		*WR-KR* Cle Montgomery *(FA)*
1982 *9-2-0* *1st, AFC* *Regular Season*	*RB* Marcus Allen *(1)* *LB* Jack Squirek *(2A)* *S* Vann McElroy *(3)*	*DE* Lyle Alzado *(from Cleveland)* *RB-KR* Greg Pruitt *(from Cleveland)*	
1983 *14-4-0* *AFC Champion*	*G* Don Mosebar *(1)* *DE* Bill Pickel *(2)* *LB* Tony Caldwell *(3)* *DE* Greg Townsend *(4)* *WR* Dokie Williams *(5)*	*G* Charley Hannah *(from Tampa Bay)* *TE* Don Hasselbeck *(from New England)* *T* Shelby Jordan *(from New England)*	*LB* Darryl Byrd *(FA)* *CB* Mike Haynes *(FA)* *QB* David Humm *(FA)* *DE* David Stalls *(FA)*

Tom Flores

Since becoming head coach in 1979, Tom Flores has led the Raiders to the playoffs three times. When his team has made it to the "second season," they have been almost unbeatable. Flores's postseason record is 7-1.

In 1980, Flores guided the Raiders to the Super Bowl XV championship, 27-10 over Philadelphia. The victory earned him a unique distinction. He's the only person to receive a Super Bowl ring as a player (with the Chiefs in Game IV), assistant coach (Raiders in Game XI), and head coach.

Flores's roots with the Raiders date back to 1960. He spent 6 of his 11 years as an NFL quarterback with Oakland. After a shoulder injury ended his playing career, he joined the Buffalo staff as quarterbacks coach in 1971. A year later he returned to the Raiders as receivers coach.

His staff includes Sam Boghosian, offensive line; Willie Brown, assistant coach; Chet Franklin, defensive backfield; Larry Kennan, research, planning; Earl Leggett, defensive line; Bob Mischak, assistant coach; Steve Ortmayer, special teams; Terry Robiskie, coaches assistant; Art Shell, assistant coach; Charles Sumner, linebackers; Tom Walsh, receivers; and Ray Willsey, offensive backfield. ■

Washington Redskins

How They Were Built

Year	Draft (19)	Trades (4)	Free Agents (24) Waivers (2)
1972 *13-4-0* *NFC Champion*			*T* George Starke *(W)*
1973 *10-5-0* *2nd, NFC East*			
1974 *10-5-0* *2nd, NFC East*		*QB* Joe Theismann *(from Miami)*	*K* Mark Moseley *(FA)*
1975 *8-6-0* *3rd, NFC East*			*DT* Dave Butz *(FA)*
1976 *10-5-0* *2nd, NFC East*			*RB* John Riggins *(FA)*
1977 *9-5-0* *2nd, NFC East*			*DT* Perry Brooks *(FA)* *S* Mark Murphy *(FA)*
1978 *8-8-0* *3rd, NFC East*			
1979 *10-6-0* *3rd, NFC East*	*TE* Don Warren *(4)* *LB* Rich Milot *(7)* *LB* Monte Coleman *(11)*		*LB* Neal Olkewicz *(FA)*
1980 *6-10-0* *3rd, NFC East*	*WR* Art Monk *(1)*		*C* Jeff Bostic *(FA)* *TE* Rick Walker *(FA)*
1981 *8-8-0* *4th, NFC East*	*G* Mark May *(1)* *G* Russ Grimm *(3)* *DE* Dexter Manley *(5)* *LB* Larry Kubin *(6)* *WR* Charlie Brown *(8)* *DT* Darryl Grant *(9)* *TE* Clint Didier *(12)*	*RB* Joe Washington *(from Baltimore)*	*LB* Peter Cronan *(FA)* *WR* Alvin Garrett *(W)* *RB* Nick Giaquinto *(FA)* *T* Joe Jacoby *(FA)* *S* Curtis Jordan *(FA)* *LB* Mel Kaufman *(FA)* *WR-KR* Virgil Seay *(FA)* *RB* Otis Wonsley *(FA)*
1982 *12-1-0* *Super Bowl XVII* *Champion*	*CB* Vernon Dean *(2)* *DE* Todd Liebenstein *(4)* *TE* Mike Williams *(5)* *S* Ken Coffey *(9)* *QB* Bob Holly *(11B)*	*DE* Tony McGee *(from New England)*	*LB* Stuart Anderson *(FA)* *P* Jeff Hayes *(FA)* *S* Greg Williams *(FA)*
1983 *16-2-0* *NFC Champion*	*CB-KR* Darrell Green *(1)* *DE* Charles Mann *(3)* *QB* Babe Laufenberg *(6B)*	*CB* A. Washington *(from Pittsburgh)*	*CB* Brian Carpenter *(FA)* *RB* Reggie Evans *(FA)* *G* Ken Huff *(FA)* *G* Bruce Kimball *(FA)* *WR* Mark McGrath *(FA)* *G-T* Roy Simmons *(FA)*

Joe Gibbs

After five games in 1981, his rookie year as head coach, Joe Gibbs must have wondered what went wrong. The Redskins were 0-5.

The records show that Gibbs posted his initial NFL win on October 11, 1981, and that the Redskins have won 36 of their last 42 games and are appearing in their second straight Super Bowl.

This season the Redskins have lost only twice in 18 games.

Gibbs's background is one of high-powered offensive football, thanks to an association with Don Coryell. He played and coached (1961-66) for Coryell at San Diego State. When Coryell was the St. Louis Cardinals' head coach from 1973-77, Gibbs was his offensive backfield coach. In 1979-1980 he was Coryell's offensive coordinator with the Chargers.

The Redskins' staff includes Don Breaux, offensive backfield; Joe Bugel, assistant head coach-offense; Bill Hickman, administrative assistant; Larry Peccatiello, defensive coordinator; Richie Petitbon, assistant head coach-defense; Jerry Rhome, quarterbacks; Dan Riley, strength coach; Wayne Sevier, special teams; Warren Simmons, tight ends; Jim Speros, assistant strength; Charley Taylor, receivers; and LaVern Torgeson, defensive line. ■

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Gen. Partner 1960-1983

AL LoCASALE
Executive Assistant

TOM FLORES
Head Coach

6 MARC WILSON
Quarterback

8 RAY GUY
Punter

10 CHRIS BAHR
Kicker

11 DAVID HUMM
Quarterback

16 JIM PLUNKETT
Quarterback

20 TED WATTS
Cornerback

21 CLIFF BRANCH
Wide Receiver

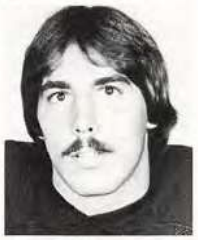
22 MIKE HAYNES
Cornerback

23 ODIS McKINNEY
Safety

26 VANN McELROY
Safety

27 FRANK HAWKINS
Running Back

28 C. MONTGOMERY
Wide Receiver


31 DERRICK JENSEN
Tight End

32 MARCUS ALLEN
Running Back

33 KENNY KING
Running Back

34 GREG PRUITT
Kick Returner

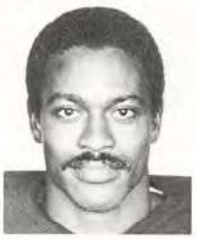
36 MIKE DAVIS
Safety

37 LESTER HAYES
Cornerback

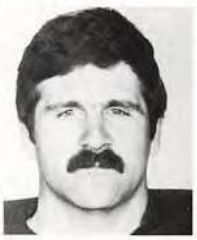
38 CHESTER WILLIS
Running Back

45 JAMES DAVIS
Cornerback

46 T. CHRISTENSEN
Tight End

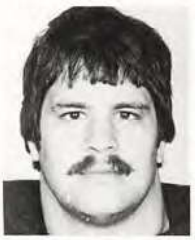

48 KENNY HILL
Safety

50 DAVE DALBY
Center


51 BOB NELSON
Linebacker

53 ROD MARTIN
Linebacker

54 DARRYL BYRD
Linebacker


55 MATT MILLEN
Linebacker

56 JEFF BARNES
Linebacker

57 TONY CALDWELL
Linebacker

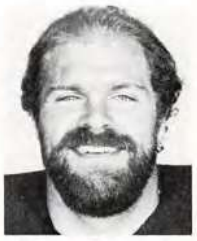
58 JACK SQUIREK
Linebacker

61 DAVE STALLS
Nose Tackle

62 REGGIE KINLAW
Nose Tackle

Los Angeles Raiders

64 SHELBY JORDAN
Tackle



65 MICKEY MARVIN
Guard

66 S. SYLVESTER
Center-Guard

68 J. ROBINSON
Nose Tackle

70 H. LAWRENCE
Tackle

71 BILL PICKEL
Defensive End

72 DON MOSEBAR
Guard

73 C. HANNAH
Guard

75 HOWIE LONG
Defensive End

77 LYLE ALZADO
Defensive End

79 BRUCE DAVIS
Tackle

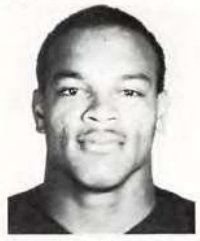
80 M. BARNWELL
Wide Receiver

82 C. MUHAMMAD
Wide Receiver

83 TED HENDRICKS
Linebacker

85 DOKIE WILLIAMS
Wide Receiver

87 DON HASSELBECK
Tight End



93 GREG TOWNSEND
Defensive End

SAM BOGHOSIAN
Assistant Coach

WILLIE BROWN
Assistant Coach

CHET FRANKLIN
Assistant Coach

LARRY KENNAN
Assistant Coach

EARL LEGGETT
Assistant Coach

BOB MISCHAK
Assistant Coach

STEVE ORTMAYER
Assistant Coach

ART SHELL
Assistant Coach

CHARLES SUMNER
Assistant Coach

TOM WALSH
Assistant Coach

RAY WILLSEY
Assistant Coach

TERRY ROBISKIE
Coaches Assistant

GEORGE ANDERSON
Head Trainer

H. ROD MARTIN
Trainer

RICHARD ROMANSKI
Equipment Manager

MAX FRIEDMAN
Film Coordinator

JOHN OTTEN
Computer Operations

KEN LaRUE
Business Manager

RON WOLF
Dir. of Player Personnel

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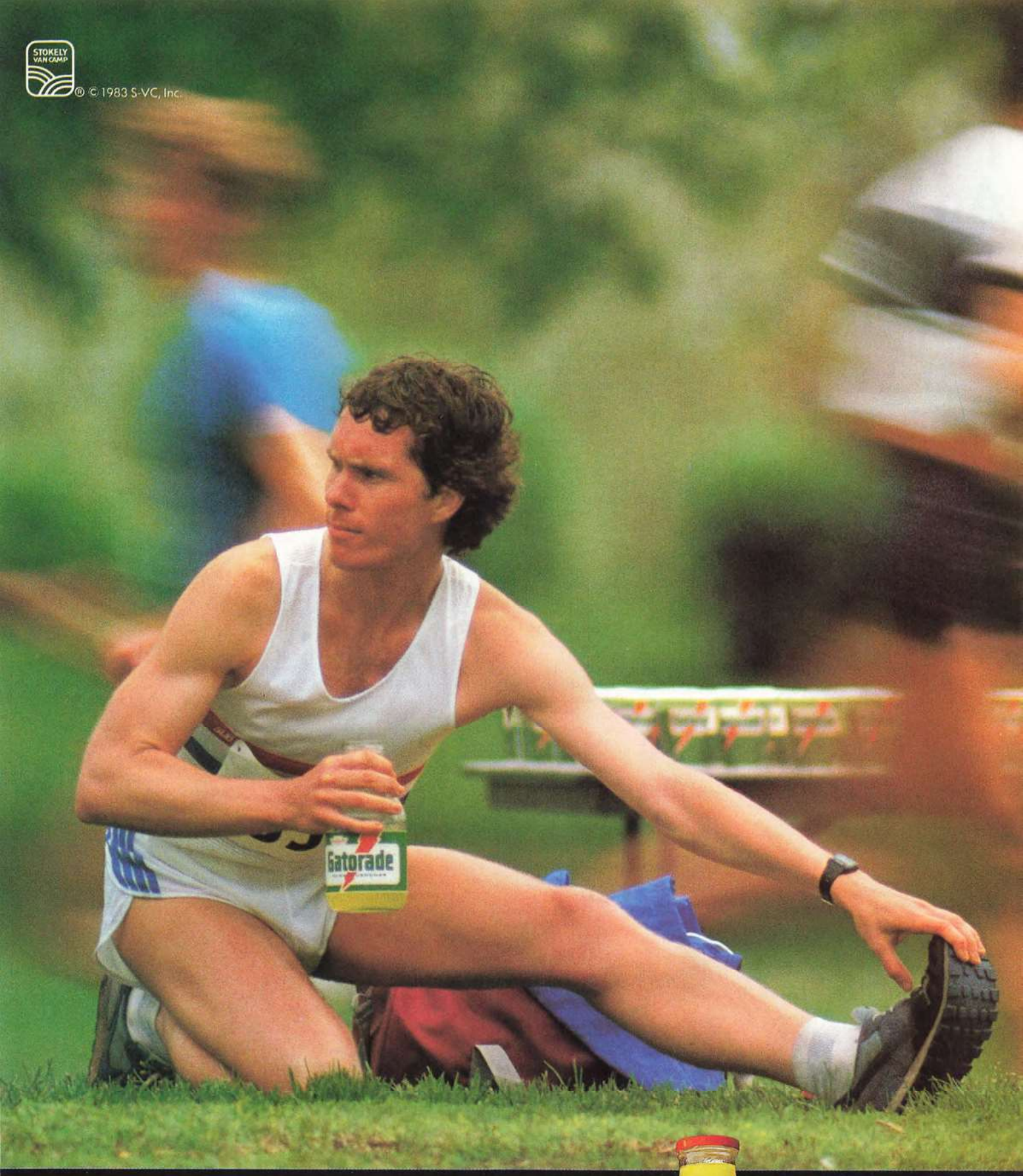

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LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	NFL Exp.	College
32	Allen, Marcus	RB	6-2	210	3/26/60	2	USC
77	Alzado, Lyle	DE	6-3	260	4/3/49	13	Yankton, South Dakota
10	Bahr, Chris	K	5-10	175	2/3/53	8	Penn State
56	Barnes, Jeff	LB	6-2	230	3/1/55	7	California
80	Barnwell, Malcolm	WR	5-11	185	6/28/58	3	Virginia Union
21	Branch, Cliff	WR	5-11	170	8/1/48	12	Colorado
54	Byrd, Darryl	LB	6-1	220	9/3/60	R	Illinois
57	Caldwell, Tony	LB	6-1	225	4/1/61	R	Washington
46	Christensen, Todd	TE	6-3	230	8/3/56	5	Brigham Young
50	Dalby, Dave	C	6-3	250	10/19/50	12	UCLA
79	Davis, Bruce	T	6-6	280	6/21/56	4	UCLA
45	Davis, James	CB	6-0	190	6/12/57	2	Southern U.
36	Davis, Mike	S	6-3	205	4/15/56	6	Colorado
8	Guy, Ray	P	6-3	190	12/22/49	11	Southern Mississippi
73	Hannah, Charley	G	6-5	260	7/26/55	7	Alabama
87	Hasselbeck, Don	TE	6-7	240	4/1/55	7	Colorado
27	Hawkins, Frank	RB	5-9	210	7/3/59	3	Nevada-Reno
37	Hayes, Lester	CB	6-0	200	1/22/55	7	Texas A&M
22	Haynes, Mike	CB	6-2	190	7/1/53	8	Arizona State
83	Hendricks, Ted	LB	6-7	235	11/1/47	15	Miami
48	Hill, Kenny	S	6-0	195	7/25/58	3	Yale
11	Humm, David	QB	6-2	195	4/2/52	9	Nebraska
31	Jensen, Derrick	TE	6-1	220	4/27/56	5	Texas-Arlington
64	Jordan, Shelby	T	6-7	285	1/23/52	7	Washington, Missouri
33	King, Kenny	RB	5-11	205	3/7/57	5	Oklahoma
62	Kinlaw, Reggie	NT	6-2	245	1/9/57	4	Oklahoma
70	Lawrence, Henry	T	6-4	270	9/26/51	10	Florida A&M
75	Long, Howie	DE	6-5	270	1/6/60	3	Villanova
53	Martin, Rod	LB	6-2	225	4/7/54	7	USC
65	Marvin, Mickey	G	6-4	265	10/5/55	7	Tennessee
26	McElroy, Vann	S	6-2	190	1/13/60	2	Baylor
23	McKinney, Odis	S	6-2	190	5/19/57	6	Colorado
55	Millen, Matt	LB	6-2	250	3/12/58	4	Penn State
28	Montgomery, Cle	WR-KR	5-8	180	7/1/56	4	Abilene Christian
72	Mosebar, Don	G	6-6	265	9/11/61	R	USC
82	Muhammad, Calvin	WR	5-11	190	12/10/58	2	Texas Southern
51	Nelson, Bob	LB	6-4	235	6/30/53	6	Nebraska
71	Pickel, Bill	DE	6-5	260	11/5/59	R	Rutgers
16	Plunkett, Jim	QB	6-2	215	12/5/47	13	Stanford
34	Pruitt, Greg	RB-KR	5-10	190	8/18/51	11	Oklahoma
68	Robinson, Johnny	NT	6-2	260	2/14/58	3	Louisiana Tech
58	Squirek, Jack	LB	6-4	225	2/16/59	2	Illinois
61	Stalls, Dave	NT	6-4	250	9/19/58	7	Northern Colorado
66	Sylvester, Steve	C-G	6-4	260	3/4/53	9	Notre Dame
93	Townsend, Greg	DE	6-3	240	11/3/61	R	Texas Christian
20	Watts, Ted	CB	6-0	195	5/29/59	3	Texas Tech
85	Williams, Dokie	WR	5-11	180	8/25/60	R	UCLA
38	Willis, Chester	RB	5-11	195	5/2/58	3	Auburn
6	Wilson, Marc	QB	6-6	205	2/15/57	4	Brigham Young

R—A first-year player who has not previously been in an NFL training camp.

THREE-DEEP LINEUPS

OFFENSE				
WR	**—21 Cliff Branch**	82 Calvin Muhammad	28 Cle Montgomery	
LT	**—79 Bruce Davis**	64 Shelby Jordan		
LG	**—73 Charley Hannah**	66 Steve Sylvester		
C	**—50 Dave Dalby**	66 Steve Sylvester		
RG	**—65 Mickey Marvin**	72 Don Mosebar		
RT	**—70 Henry Lawrence**	64 Shelby Jordan		
TE	**—46 Todd Christensen**	87 Don Hasselbeck	31 Derrick Jensen	
WR	**—80 Malcolm Barnwell**	85 Dokie Williams	28 Cle Montgomery	
QB	**—16 Jim Plunkett**	6 Marc Wilson	11 David Humm	
RB	**—33 Kenny King**	27 Frank Hawkins	38 Chester Willis	
RB	**—32 Marcus Allen**	34 Greg Pruitt		
DEFENSE				
LE	**—75 Howie Long**	93 Greg Townsend		
NT	**—62 Reggie Kinlaw**	61 Dave Stalls	68 Johnny Robinson	
RE	**—77 Lyle Alzado**	71 Bill Pickel		
LOLB	**—83 Ted Hendricks**	56 Jeff Barnes		
LILB	**—55 Matt Millen**	58 Jack Squirek	54 Darryl Byrd	
RILB	**—51 Bob Nelson**	58 Jack Squirek	54 Darryl Byrd	
ROLB	**—53 Rod Martin**	57 Tony Caldwell		
LCB	**—37 Lester Hayes**	45 James Davis		
RCB	**—22 Mike Haynes**	20 Ted Watts		
SS	**—36 Mike Davis**	48 Kenny Hill		
FS	**—26 Vann McElroy**	23 Odis McKinney		
SPECIALISTS				
P	**— 8 Ray Guy**	10 Chris Bahr		
K	**—10 Chris Bahr**	8 Ray Guy		
H	**—11 David Humm**	8 Ray Guy	26 Vann McElroy	
PC	**—46 Todd Christensen**	73 Charley Hannah	51 Bob Nelson	
KC	**—50 Dave Dalby**	73 Charley Hannah	66 Steve Sylvester	
PR	**—34 Greg Pruitt**	28 Cle Montgomery	20 Ted Watts	
KR	**—34 Greg Pruitt**	28 Cle Montgomery	85 Dokie Williams	

Bold Face—Starters

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RAIDERS

OFFENSE

21	Cliff Branch	WR
79	Bruce Davis	LT
73	Charley Hannah	LG
50	Dave Dalby	C
65	Mickey Marvin	RG
70	Henry Lawrence	RT
46	Todd Christensen	TE
80	Malcolm Barnwell	WR
16	Jim Plunkett	QB
33	Kenny King	RB
32	Marcus Allen	RB

DEFENSE

75	Howie Long	LE
62	Reggie Kinlaw	NT
77	Lyle Alzado	RE
83	Ted Hendricks	LOLB
55	Matt Millen	LILB
51	Bob Nelson	RILB
53	Rod Martin	ROLB
37	Lester Hayes	LCB
22	Mike Haynes	RCB
36	Mike Davis	SS
26	Vann McElroy	FS

RAIDERS NUMERICAL ROSTER

6	Marc Wilson	QB	54	Darryl Byrd	LB
8	Ray Guy	P	55	Matt Millen	LB
10	Chris Bahr	K	56	Jeff Barnes	LB
11	David Humm	QB	57	Tony Caldwell	LB
16	Jim Plunkett	QB	58	Jack Squirek	LB
20	Ted Watts	CB	61	Dave Stalls	NT
21	Cliff Branch	WR	62	Reggie Kinlaw	NT
22	Mike Haynes	CB	64	Shelby Jordan	T
23	Odis McKinney	S	65	Mickey Marvin	G
26	Vann McElroy	S	66	Steve Sylvester	C-G
27	Frank Hawkins	RB	68	Johnny Robinson	NT
28	Cle Montgomery	WR-KR	70	Henry Lawrence	T
31	Derrick Jensen	TE	71	Bill Pickel	DE
32	Marcus Allen	RB	72	Don Mosebar	G
33	Kenny King	RB	73	Charley Hannah	G
34	Greg Pruitt	RB-KR	75	Howie Long	DE
36	Mike Davis	S	77	Lyle Alzado	DE
37	Lester Hayes	CB	79	Bruce Davis	T
38	Chester Willis	RB	80	Malcolm Barnwell	WR
45	James Davis	CB	82	Calvin Muhammad	WR
46	Todd Christensen	TE	83	Ted Hendricks	LB
48	Kenny Hill	S	85	Dokie Williams	WR
50	Dave Dalby	C	87	Don Hasselbeck	TE
51	Bob Nelson	LB	93	Greg Townsend	DE
53	Rod Martin	LB			

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REDSKINS

OFFENSE

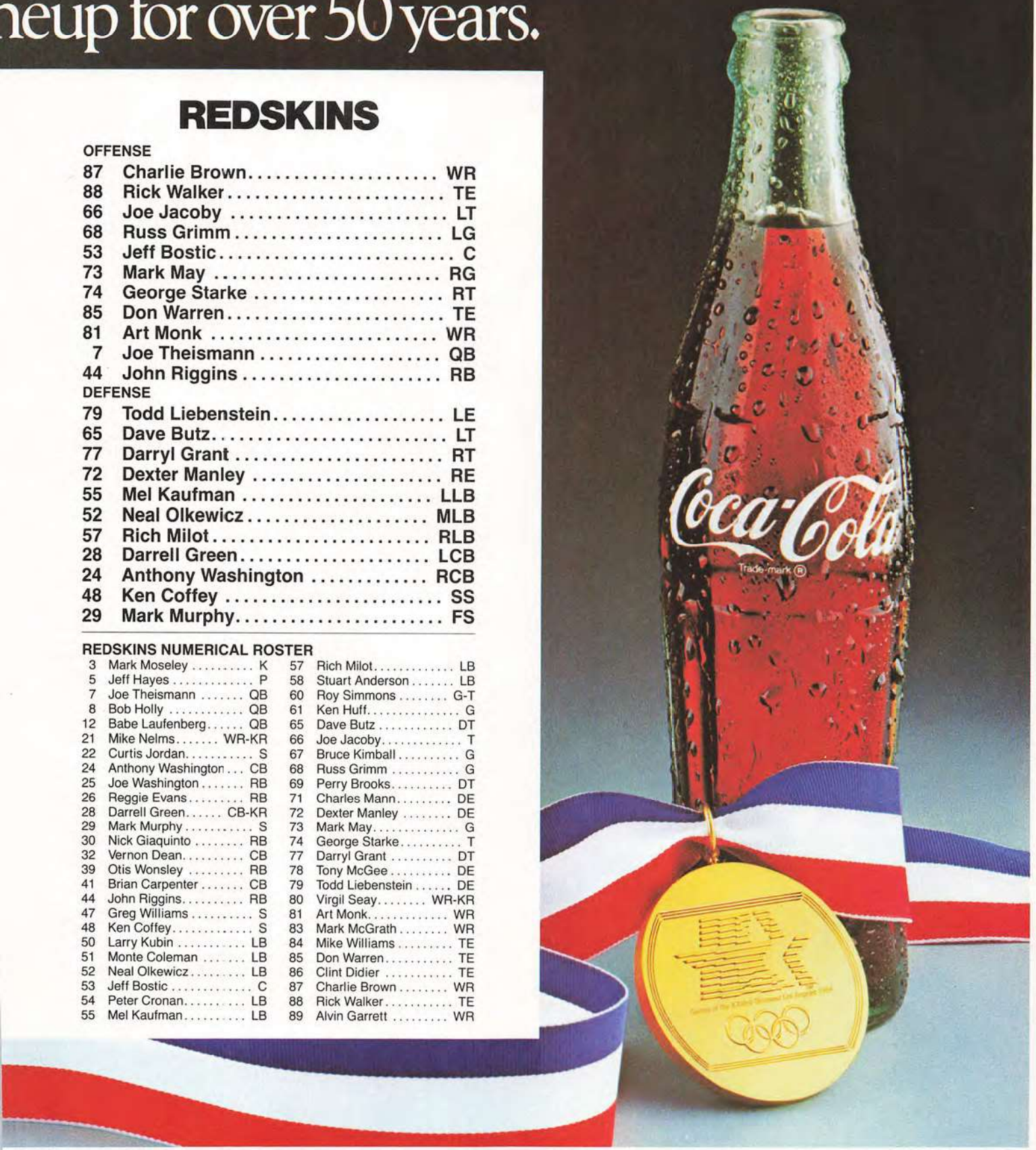
87	Charlie Brown	WR
88	Rick Walker	TE
66	Joe Jacoby	LT
68	Russ Grimm	LG
53	Jeff Bostic	C
73	Mark May	RG
74	George Starke	RT
85	Don Warren	TE
81	Art Monk	WR
7	Joe Theismann	QB
44	John Riggins	RB

DEFENSE

79	Todd Liebenstein	LE
65	Dave Butz	LT
77	Darryl Grant	RT
72	Dexter Manley	RE
55	Mel Kaufman	LLB
52	Neal Olkewicz	MLB
57	Rich Milot	RLB
28	Darrell Green	LCB
24	Anthony Washington	RCB
48	Ken Coffey	SS
29	Mark Murphy	FS

REDSKINS NUMERICAL ROSTER

3	Mark Moseley	K	57	Rich Milot	LB
5	Jeff Hayes	P	58	Stuart Anderson	LB
7	Joe Theismann	QB	60	Roy Simmons	G-T
8	Bob Holly	QB	61	Ken Huff	G
12	Babe Laufenberg	QB	65	Dave Butz	DT
21	Mike Nelms	WR-KR	66	Joe Jacoby	T
22	Curtis Jordan	S	67	Bruce Kimball	G
24	Anthony Washington	CB	68	Russ Grimm	G
25	Joe Washington	RB	69	Perry Brooks	DT
26	Reggie Evans	RB	71	Charles Mann	DE
28	Darrell Green	CB-KR	72	Dexter Manley	DE
29	Mark Murphy	S	73	Mark May	G
30	Nick Giaquinto	RB	74	George Starke	T
32	Vernon Dean	CB	77	Darryl Grant	DT
39	Otis Wonsley	RB	78	Tony McGee	DE
41	Brian Carpenter	CB	79	Todd Liebenstein	DE
44	John Riggins	RB	80	Virgil Seay	WR-KR
47	Greg Williams	S	81	Art Monk	WR
48	Ken Coffey	S	83	Mark McGrath	WR
50	Larry Kubin	LB	84	Mike Williams	TE
51	Monte Coleman	LB	85	Don Warren	TE
52	Neal Olkewicz	LB	86	Clint Didier	TE
53	Jeff Bostic	C	87	Charlie Brown	WR
54	Peter Cronan	LB	88	Rick Walker	TE
55	Mel Kaufman	LB	89	Alvin Garrett	WR



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WASHINGTON REDSKINS

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	NFL Exp.	College
58	Anderson, Stuart	LB	6-1	224	12/25/59	2	Virginia
53	Bostic, Jeff	C	6-2	250	9/18/58	4	Clemson
69	Brooks, Perry	DT	6-3	270	12/4/54	6	Southern U.
87	Brown, Charlie	WR	5-10	179	10/29/58	2	South Carolina State
65	Butz, Dave	DT	6-7	295	6/23/50	11	Purdue
41	Carpenter, Brian	CB	5-10	167	11/27/60	2	Michigan
48	Coffey, Ken	S	6-0	190	7/11/60	1	Southwest Texas State
51	Coleman, Monte	LB	6-2	230	11/4/57	5	Central Arkansas
54	Cronan, Peter	LB	6-2	238	1/13/55	6	Boston College
32	Dean, Vernon	CB	5-11	178	5/5/59	2	San Diego State
86	Didier, Clint	TE	6-5	240	4/4/59	2	Portland State
26	Evans, Reggie	RB	5-11	201	1/5/59	1	Richmond
89	Garrett, Alvin	WR	5-7	185	10/1/55	4	Angelo State
30	Giaquinto, Nick	RB	5-11	204	4/4/55	4	Connecticut
77	Grant, Darryl	DT	6-1	275	11/22/59	3	Rice
28	Green, Darrell	CB-KR	5-8	170	12/15/60	R	Texas A&I
68	Grimm, Russ	G-C	6-3	275	5/2/59	3	Pittsburgh
5	Hayes, Jeff	P	5-11	175	8/19/59	2	North Carolina
8	Holly, Bob	QB	6-2	196	6/1/60	2	Princeton
61	Huff, Ken	G	6-4	265	2/21/53	9	North Carolina
66	Jacoby, Joe	T	6-7	298	7/6/59	3	Louisville
22	Jordan, Curtis	S	6-2	205	1/25/54	7	Texas Tech
55	Kaufman, Mel	LB	6-2	218	2/24/58	3	Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo
67	Kimball, Bruce	G	6-2	260	8/19/56	2	Massachusetts
50	Kubin, Larry	LB	6-2	238	2/26/59	2	Penn State
12	Laufenberg, Babe	QB	6-2	195	12/5/59	R	Indiana
79	Liebenstein, Todd	DE	6-6	255	1/9/60	2	Nevada-Las Vegas
72	Manley, Dexter	DE	6-3	250	2/7/59	3	Oklahoma State
71	Mann, Charles	DE	6-6	250	4/12/61	R	Nevada-Reno
73	May, Mark	G	6-6	288	11/2/59	3	Pittsburgh
78	McGee, Tony	DE	6-3	249	1/18/49	13	Bishop, Texas
83	McGrath, Mark	WR	5-11	175	12/17/57	2	Montana State
57	Milot, Rich	LB	6-4	237	4/28/57	5	Penn State
81	Monk, Art	WR	6-3	209	12/5/57	4	Syracuse
3	Moseley, Mark	K	6-0	204	3/12/48	12	Stephen F. Austin
29	Murphy, Mark	S	6-4	210	7/13/55	7	Colgate
21	Nelms, Mike	WR-KR	6-1	184	4/8/55	4	Baylor
52	Olkewicz, Neal	LB	6-0	233	1/30/57	5	Maryland
44	Riggins, John	RB	6-2	235	8/4/49	12	Kansas
80	Seay, Virgil	WR-KR	5-9	175	1/1/58	3	Troy State
60	Simmons, Roy	G	6-3	264	11/8/56	4	Georgia Tech
74	Starke, George	T	6-5	260	7/18/48	11	Columbia
7	Theismann, Joe	QB	6-0	198	9/9/49	10	Notre Dame
88	Walker, Rick	TE	6-4	235	5/28/55	7	UCLA
85	Warren, Don	TE	6-4	242	5/5/56	5	San Diego State
24	Washington, Anthony	CB	6-1	204	2/4/58	3	Fresno State
25	Washington, Joe	RB	5-10	179	9/24/53	7	Oklahoma
47	Williams, Greg	S	5-11	185	8/1/59	2	Mississippi State
84	Williams, Mike	TE	6-4	251	8/27/59	2	Alabama A&M
39	Wonsley, Otis	RB	5-10	214	8/13/57	3	Alcorn State

R—A first-year player who has not previously been in an NFL training camp.

THREE-DEEP LINEUPS

OFFENSE

WR	**—87 Charlie Brown**	80 Virgil Seay	83 Mark McGrath	21 Mike Nelms
TE	**—88 Rick Walker**	86 Clint Didier	84 Mike Williams	
LT	**—66 Joe Jacoby**	73 Mark May		
LG	**—68 Russ Grimm**	60 Roy Simmons	67 Bruce Kimball	
C	**—53 Jeff Bostic**	68 Russ Grimm		
RG	**—73 Mark May**	61 Ken Huff	67 Bruce Kimball	
RT	**—74 George Starke**	73 Mark May		
TE	**—85 Don Warren**	86 Clint Didier	84 Mike Williams	
WR	**—81 Art Monk**	89 Alvin Garrett	83 Mark McGrath	21 Mike Nelms
QB	**— 7 Joe Theismann**	8 Bob Holly	12 Babe Laufenberg	
RB	**—44 John Riggins**	25 Joe Washington	39 Otis Wonsley	30 Nick Giaquinto 26 Reggie Evans

DEFENSE

LE	**—79 Todd Liebenstein**	78 Tony McGee	71 Charles Mann	
LT	**—65 Dave Butz**	69 Perry Brooks		
RT	**—77 Darryl Grant**	69 Perry Brooks		
RE	**—72 Dexter Manley**	71 Charles Mann		
LLB	**—55 Mel Kaufman**	51 Monte Coleman	58 Stuart Anderson	
MLB	**—52 Neal Olkewicz**	50 Larry Kubin	54 Peter Cronan	
RLB	**—57 Rich Milot**	51 Monte Coleman	58 Stuart Anderson	
LCB	**—28 Darrell Green**	41 Brian Carpenter		
RCB	**—24 Anthony Washington**	32 Vernon Dean		
SS	**—48 Ken Coffey**	22 Curtis Jordan	32 Vernon Dean	
FS	**—29 Mark Murphy**	22 Curtis Jordan	47 Greg Williams	

SPECIALISTS

P	**— 5 Jeff Hayes**			
K	**— 3 Mark Moseley**			
H	**— 7 Joe Theismann**			
PC	**—53 Jeff Bostic**	77 Darryl Grant	67 Bruce Kimball	
KC	**—53 Jeff Bostic**	77 Darryl Grant	67 Bruce Kimball	
PR	**—21 Mike Nelms**	80 Virgil Seay	30 Nick Giaquinto	28 Darrell Green
KR	**—21 Mike Nelms**	80 Virgil Seay	89 Alvin Garrett	26 Reggie Evans

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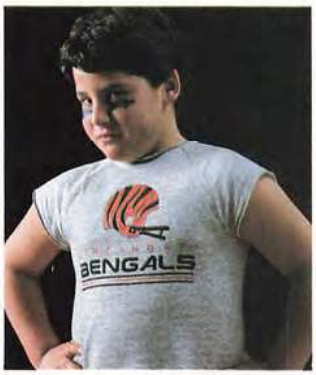

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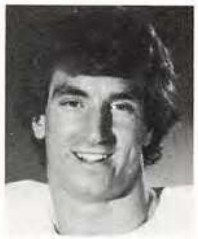
8 BOB HOLLY
Quarterback


12 BABE LAUFENBERG
Quarterback

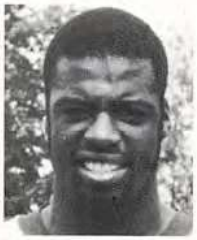
21 MIKE NELMS
Kick Returner

22 CURTIS JORDAN
Safety

24 A. WASHINGTON
Cornerback

25 JOE WASHINGTON
Running Back

26 REGGIE EVANS
Running Back


28 DARRELL GREEN
Cornerback

29 MARK MURPHY
Safety

30 NICK GIAQUINTO
Running Back

32 VERNON DEAN
Cornerback

39 OTIS WONSLEY
Running Back

41 BRIAN CARPENTER
Cornerback

44 JOHN RIGGINS
Running Back

47 GREG WILLIAMS
Safety

48 KEN COFFEY
Safety

50 LARRY KUBIN
Linebacker

51 MONTE COLEMAN
Linebacker

52 NEAL OLKEWICZ
Linebacker

53 JEFF BOSTIC
Center

54 PETER CRONAN
Linebacker

55 MEL KAUFMAN
Linebacker

57 RICH MILOT
Linebacker

58 S. ANDERSON
Linebacker

60 ROY SIMMONS
Guard-Tackle

61 KEN HUFF
Guard

Washington Redskins

65 DAVE BUTZ
Defensive Tackle

66 JOE JACOBY
Tackle

67 BRUCE KIMBALL
Guard

68 RUSS GRIMM
Guard

69 PERRY BROOKS
Defensive Tackle

71 CHARLES MANN
Defensive End

72 DEXTER MANLEY
Defensive End

73 MARK MAY
Guard

74 GEORGE STARKE
Tackle

77 DARRYL GRANT
Defensive Tackle

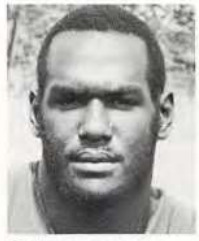
78 TONY McGEE
Defensive End

79 TODD LIEBENSTEIN
Defensive End

80 VIRGIL SEAY
Wide Receiver

81 ART MONK
Wide Receiver

83 MARK McGRATH
Wide Receiver



84 MIKE WILLIAMS
Tight End

85 DON WARREN
Tight End

86 CLINT DIDIER
Tight End

87 CHARLIE BROWN
Wide Receiver

88 RICK WALKER
Tight End

89 ALVIN GARRETT
Wide Receiver

DON BREAUX
Assistant Coach

JOE BUGEL
Assistant Head Coach

BILL HICKMAN
Assistant Coach

LARRY PECCATIELLO
Assistant Coach

RICHIE PETITBON
Assistant Head Coach

JERRY RHOME
Assistant Coach

DAN RILEY
Assistant Coach

WAYNE SEVIER
Assistant Coach

WARREN SIMMONS
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Assistant Coach

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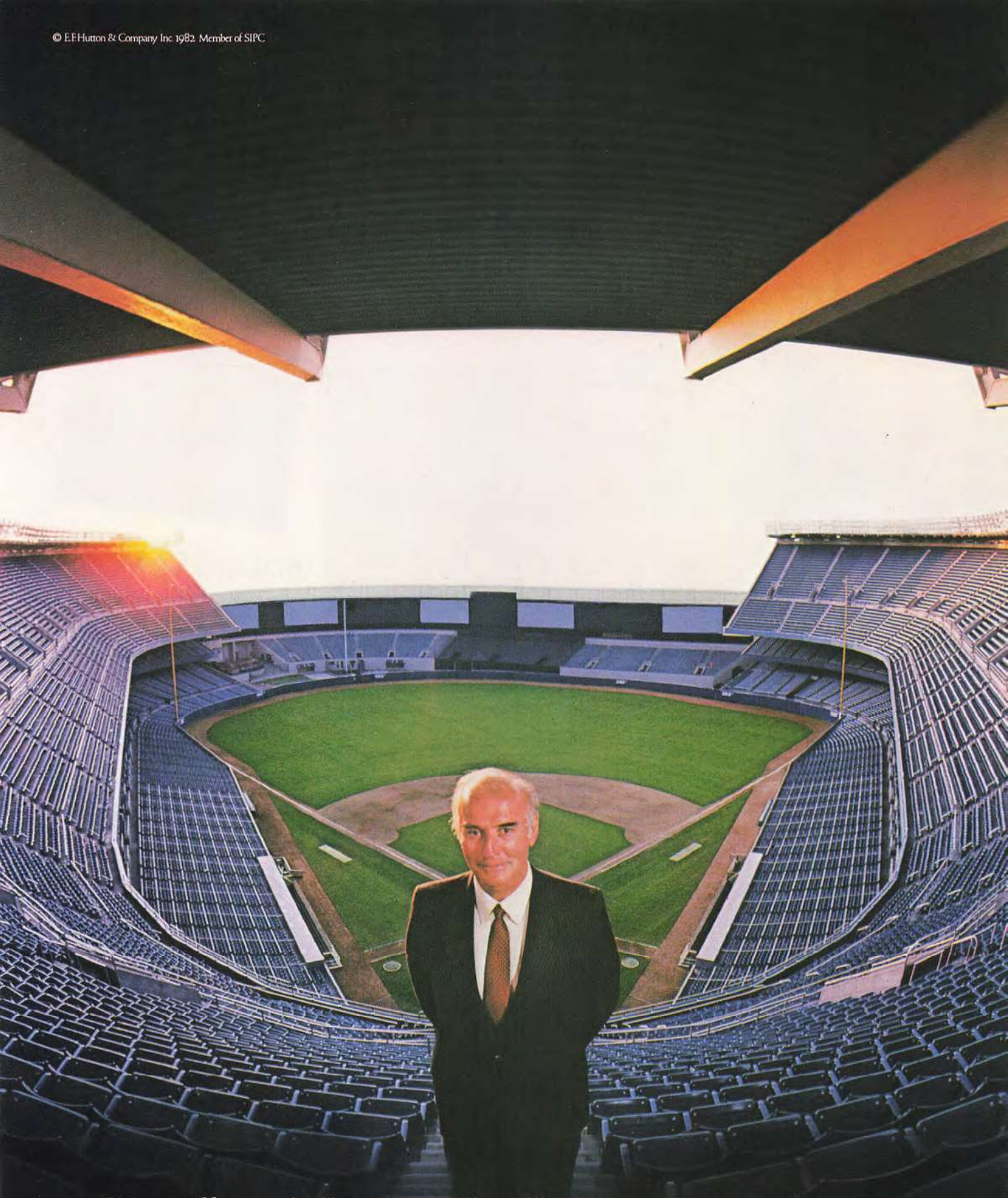

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SOME ENCHANTED SEASON

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BY LARRY ELDRIDGE, JR.

Okay, Rodgers and Hammerstein were talking about romantic love in their classic "Some Enchanted Evening" from *South Pacific*. But there is no patent on that advice; there are other applications... and other conundrums.

Look at the 1983 NFL season. Isn't it a bit premature for any deep analytical breakdowns of the 28-part formula that led to today's Super Bowl? For one thing, the centrifuge still has one more spin to go before a champion is distilled. For another, wasn't it just a few crazy weeks ago that 20 of the 28 NFL teams still were playing Wild Card Stud and Playoff Roulette?

Anyway, even if collective breaths are still being caught, it may be fun to sneak a quick peek at how, if not why, today's Super Bowl combatants emerged from the NFL's annual playoff scramble.

Let's begin with one word: quarterbacks. If you recall, that's all anybody was talking about last spring, around the time of the annual NFL draft. John Elway became a household name long before he threw his first NFL pass, and he headed a list of six quarterbacks drafted in the first round—though he refused to play for the Colts, who selected him first, and then was traded to Denver.

Oh, quarterbacks were in the headlines, all right, and that's the way it continued all season—especially in the AFC, where there were almost more *juxtapositions* at the position than one could keep track of.

Jim Plunkett, for instance, who is used to this sort of thing, began the season as the Raiders' number-one quarterback. In Week Eight he was benched in favor of Marc Wilson. But then Wilson separated a shoulder three weeks later, and Plunkett came back to lead the Raiders to the AFC West title.

The heralded Elway, meanwhile, opened the season at quarterback for Denver, but got in over his head. He was replaced after several games by Steve DeBerg. DeBerg brought the Broncos back into contention, but then he was consigned to the infirmary with a shoulder separation late in the season. Back came Elway, who suddenly had The Touch, and he led the Broncos into the playoffs—for the first time since 1979.

This was happening all over.

Quarterback quietude was interrupted both in San Diego and Cincinnati, where injuries to a pair of all-pro quarterbacks, Dan Fouts and Ken Anderson, echoed hollow seasons in those two cities (though Fouts was again Pro Bowl material when he was healthy).

Pittsburgh survived Terry Bradshaw's elbow injury (though he came back in December after electronic acupuncture treatments to help the Steelers clinch in the AFC Central), but the loss of quarterback Steve Grogan, who was having his finest year, hurt the Patriots down the stretch, and they joined Buffalo on the outside looking in.

Then there was Miami. Rookie Dan Marino, the sixth quarterback chosen in the first round, made Don Shula look good after he replaced last year's Super Bowl starter, David Woodley, in Week Six. Or perhaps it was vice versa. In any event, Marino immediately began playing like an all-pro, and the Dolphins went on a tear. (Of course Old Faithful, Don Strock, was around near the finish, when Marino injured a knee, to help the Dolphins win the AFC East, where Baltimore and the Jets were surprising—for different reasons.)

The revolving door took quarterbacks for spins in Seattle, Cleveland, and Houston, as well as in a few NFC cities, including Chicago, Tampa Bay, New Orleans, St. Louis, Minnesota, and New York.

Ironically, despite all of the attention focused on quarterbacks this year, a pair of remarkable rookies helped lead a running revival in the NFL, just when it looked like that art might become extinct in this era of pass, pass, and pass again.

Prolific rookie Curt Warner animated the Seahawks' offense and led the AFC in rushing. Warner was joined in the 1,000-yard column by Earl Campbell, Joe Cribbs, Mike Pruitt, Tony Collins, Curtis Dickey, Marcus Allen, and ancient (by running back standards) Franco Harris, who moved inexorably closer to Jim Brown's all-time NFL career rushing record. (That prompted the even more ancient Brown to grab a few headlines—not to mention a *Sports Illustrated* cover—himself.)

If Warner made a big splash, the Rams' Eric Dickerson caused a tidal wave. He set a new NFL rookie rushing record, and led the running resurgence in the NFC, along with thousand-yarders Tony Dorsett, Walter Payton, William Andrews, John Riggins, Ottis Anderson, George Rogers, and Billy Sims.

Dorsett's dash and Riggins's touchdowns continued to serve Dallas and Washington well. Those two powers ran away and hid in the NFC East from the Cardinals, Eagles, and Giants—but not from each other. The Cowboys, who teasingly made a habit of falling behind before coming back to win, made the playoffs for a record ninth consecutive year. The Redskins, although they were locked in some memorable early-season thrillers with the Cowboys, Raiders, and Packers, again were redoubtable (as Dallas found out in their rematch). They managed to avoid the year-after regular-season hangover that has plagued defending Super Bowl champions in recent years.

The NFC Central was its own usual enigma. First it looked as if it might be Green Bay's year. Then Minnesota, despite the early season loss of quarterback Tommy Kramer, got hot. Then the Lions made their move, and the puzzle wasn't solved until the final week of the regular season. By the time the Bears woke up they were 3-7, though they again raised hopes for next year with a late spurt. Tampa Bay, however, spent the season in the Dead Zone.

Things were no less helter-skelter in the NFC West, where the 49ers, Rams, and Saints waged their own private 16-week version of king of the mountain, though the Falcons never could gain a foothold.

But this is all prelude. If you'd like a closer look at season number LXIV, the following 38 pages are just for you.

Five new NFL head coaches get running starts in the 1983 season, and the Cowboys avenge themselves in Washington.

1

Opening day, September 5, 1983. RFK Stadium. Dallas vs. Washington. Monday night football.

Think it was a tough ticket?

The defending Super Bowl champions, still taking curtain calls, hosting their longtime bête noire. America's Team in the Nation's Capital. The Fun Bunch and the new, no-nonsense Cowboys. Tom Landry surrounded by Redskins—again. Six-shooters and one-back offenses drawn. Smurfs and Hogs, all in place.

Invoking memories of its 31-17 victory against Dallas in the NFC Championship Game last January, Washington led a charmed life for 30 minutes. There was Joe Theismann tossing a 41-yard touchdown pass to Charlie Brown. There was John Riggins blasting in from the 1 for another score. There was 1982 NFL player of the year Mark Moseley kicking three field goals. There was Dexter Manley sacking Dallas quarterback Danny White. And at halftime, there was a 23-3 lead. If you were a Washington fan, all was right with the world.

Then the third quarter began, and all of a sudden, there was White throwing touchdown passes (of 75 and 51 yards) to Tony Hill. There was White sneaking around end for another touchdown. And there was White again, throwing a one-yard scoring pass to tight end Doug Cosbie with 1:49 left to play to give the Cowboys a 31-23 lead, which turned into a 31-30 win.

Whew! That was the thrilling climax to the opening weekend of the NFL's sixty-fourth season, which technically had been inaugurated two days earlier at Candlestick Park, where the Eagles, playing for the first time under new coach Marion Campbell, squeezed out a 22-17 win over the 49ers.

Joe Montana and Ron Jaworski both suffered head injuries. But Jaworski's replacement at quarterback, Joe Pisarcik, was more effective than counterpart Guy Benjamin, leading a 16-point third-quarter surge.

Four other new coaches also were able to get into the "W" column. Dan Henning was one, thanks to a 21-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Steve Bartkowski to wide receiver Alfred Jenkins, which gave the Falcons a 20-17 victory at Chicago.

"Rookie" Joe Walton, headset and baseball cap intact, was another winner. His New York Jets looked imposing throughout their 41-29 victory at San Diego. They were aided, however, by a controversial "second chance" 64-yard kickoff return by Kirk Springs. Springs's return set up the clinching touchdown, an 18-yard pass from quarterback Richard Todd to Freeman McNeil with 6:43 left. Springs's first return had been nullified by referee Red Cashion, who ruled a whistle had been blown after the kickoff because television coverage had not yet resumed from a commercial.

Kansas City won for its new head man, John Mackovic, when newly acquired running back Jewerl Thomas threw an 18-yard option pass to wide receiver Carlos Carson for the winning points in a 17-13 victory against Seattle and the Seahawks' new head coach, Chuck Knox.

Another confrontation between first year head coaches—Bill Parcells of the New York Giants and the Los Angeles Rams' John Robinson—ended with Robinson's Rams on top 16-6. "We just pinned our ears back and stormed the castle," said defensive end Jack Youngblood, referring to the Rams' five sacks of quarterback Scott Brunner.

Colts linebacker Johnie Cooks retrieved a fumble by New England's Tony Collins and raced 52 yards for the winning touchdown in overtime for a 29-23 victory—head coach Frank Kush's first with Baltimore.

Although quarterback Lynn Dickey completed 27 of 31 passes for 333 yards and five touchdowns, and set a club record by connecting on his first 18 attempts, the Packers needed a 42-yard overtime field goal by Jan Stenerud to defeat Houston 41-38.

Dickey, who had missed Friday and Saturday practices with a virus, was out of the game by that time, a victim of severe headaches. "I once went to the wrong huddle and [Oilers cornerback] Willie Tullis told me my huddle was on the other side," said Dickey. "I just lost my direction."

NEWSMAKERS

Dorsett

Rogers

von Schamann

Running back **George Rogers** set a New Orleans team record by rushing for 206 yards, and scored two third-quarter touchdowns to lead the Saints to a 28-17 victory against St. Louis. Others having big rushing days were Dallas's **Tony Dorsett,** who carried just 14 times for 151 yards in the Cowboys' win at Washington; Houston's **Earl Campbell,** with 123 yards and three touchdowns in the Oilers' loss to Green Bay; and the New York Jets' **Freeman McNeil,** whose 120 yards helped the Jets top San Diego. Running back **Ted Brown** (74 yards rushing, six catches for 63 yards) scored three times—including the winning touchdown on a 10-yard pass from **Tommy Kramer** in the third quarter—to lead Minnesota past Cleveland 27-21. Sixth-year defensive end **William Gay** had 5½ sacks in Detroit's 11-0 shutout of Tampa Bay. "I had more sacks today than I've had in a lifetime," said Gay. Miami placekicker **Uwe von Schamann's** four field goals accounted for all the scoring in the Dolphins' 12-0 victory over Buffalo. Linebacker **Matt Millen's** interception set up the Raiders' second touchdown in their 20-10 victory at Cincinnati.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Baltimore	1	0	0	1.000	29	23
Miami	1	0	0	1.000	12	0
N.Y. Jets	1	0	0	1.000	41	29
Buffalo	0	1	0	.000	0	12
New England	0	1	0	.000	23	29
AFC Central						
Cincinnati	0	1	0	.000	10	20
Cleveland	0	1	0	.000	21	27
Houston	0	1	0	.000	38	41
Pittsburgh	0	1	0	.000	10	14
AFC West						
Denver	1	0	0	1.000	14	10
Kansas City	1	0	0	1.000	17	13
L.A. Raiders	1	0	0	1.000	20	10
San Diego	0	1	0	.000	29	41
Seattle	0	1	0	.000	13	17
NFC East						
Dallas	1	0	0	1.000	31	30
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	22	17
N.Y. Giants	0	1	0	.000	6	16
St. Louis	0	1	0	.000	17	28
Washington	0	1	0	.000	30	31
NFC Central						
Detroit	1	0	0	1.000	11	0
Green Bay	1	0	0	1.000	41	38
Minnesota	1	0	0	1.000	27	21
Chicago	0	1	0	.000	17	20
Tampa Bay	0	1	0	.000	0	11
NFC West						
Atlanta	1	0	0	1.000	20	17
L.A. Rams	1	0	0	1.000	16	6
New Orleans	1	0	0	1.000	28	17
San Francisco	0	1	0	.000	17	22

SCORES

American Football Conference

Baltimore 29, New England 23, overtime
Denver 14, Pittsburgh 10
Kansas City 17, Seattle 13
Los Angeles Raiders 20, Cincinnati 10
Miami 12, Buffalo 0
New York Jets 41, San Diego 29

National Football Conference

Atlanta 20, Chicago 17
Dallas 31, Washington 30
Detroit 11, Tampa Bay 0
Los Angeles Rams 16, New York Giants 6
New Orleans 28, St. Louis 17
Philadelphia 22, San Francisco 17

Interconference Games

Green Bay 41, Houston 38, overtime
Minnesota 27, Cleveland 21

NFC, 2 victories; AFC, 0 victories

► Clockwise from top: *John Riggins's one-yard touchdown run gave Washington an early 10-0 lead, but Dallas had a comeback formula. Two touchdown receptions by Bernard Henry aided Baltimore's 29-23 overtime victory against New England. Ted Brown's third touchdown—on a 10-yard scoring pass from Tommy Kramer—helped the Vikings sink Cleveland 27-21. Quarterback Lynn Dickey (333 yards and five touchdowns passing) and the Packers opened impressively, 41-38 over Houston. John Elway started at quarterback, but was sidelined with a bruised elbow and watched replacement Steve DeBerg take the Broncos to a 14-10 victory against Pittsburgh. Freeman McNeil (133 yards rushing) and the Jets turned in a win at San Diego.*

The law of averages takes another beating at Shea, a high-priced rookie gets his lumps, and the Vikings stall out.

2

Can 49 football players all get up on the wrong side of bed on the same day?

Check with the Minnesota Vikings. They'll refer you to the second Thursday in September, when they hosted a 49ers team that seemingly could do no wrong. The final was 48-17; it really wasn't even that close. By halftime, the 49ers led 41-10.

Among the Vikings' tormentors were Joe Montana, who tied his career high with four touchdown passes, and cornerback Eric Wright, who had three interceptions.

After the nationally televised deluge, Minnesota head coach Bud Grant didn't bother grasping for any silver linings—or explanations. "What is it, Murphy's Law?" he asked. "It all went wrong. But if you try to find a reason, you'll drive yourself crazy."

Conversely, Cincinnati head coach Forrest Gregg knew exactly why his team lost. In the closing minutes the Bengals—down 10-6—were on the Bills' 4-yard line with a first and goal.

They didn't get in. The touchdown-resistent Bills defense (which allowed none in their first two games) repelled four straight plays, leaving the Bengals inches short of the goal line with just two minutes left on the clock, and winless in two games.

"When you can't make four yards," said pragmatist Gregg, "you can't win."

The Rams and Saints took turns doing their own version of Alphonse and Gaston, combining for seven fumbles, three interceptions, and 16 penalties for 153 yards.

But rookie Eric Dickerson—who had three of the Rams' four fumbles—also scored three touchdowns, including the game-winner on a three-yard run with 1:22 left.

Against Baltimore, Denver head coach Dan Reeves was forced to call on Steve DeBerg to relieve rookie starter John Elway for the second straight week. Elway, who had verbally "sacked" both the Colts and their city after Baltimore had made him the number-one pick of the 1983 draft (prompting his trade to Denver), was forced from the game with an injured shoulder. But not before the Colts and their fans had their say.

Elway was booed raucously throughout the first half, and sacked three times. "I knew it was coming," said Elway. "We warmed up to it [before the game] for forty minutes, so I got used to it. But when you've got fifty thousand people booing, it's hard to hear, no matter who you are."

With Elway on the sidelines, DeBerg threw one touchdown pass to Steve Watson, then scored the winning touchdown himself for a 17-10 victory.

Miami's 34-24 decision over New England didn't quite warrant "Man Bites Dog" coverage; it was the sixteenth straight time the Dolphins had beaten the Patriots at the Orange Bowl. Quarterback David Woodley rebounded from a poor performance in Miami's opener to connect on 11 of 20 passes for 218 yards and two touchdowns.

Leading 16-14, with his Steelers on the Green Bay 1-yard line one second into the fourth quarter at Lambeau Field, Pittsburgh head coach Chuck Noll sent his field goal unit into the game. Seconds later, he was talked into bringing it back to the sideline, and the Steelers went for six points instead.

"I begged and pleaded," said quarterback Cliff Stoudt. "We were fired up."

Running back Frank Pollard, who rushed for 90 yards to complement teammate Franco Harris's total of 118, justified Stoudt's pleas and Noll's decision by blasting in for a touchdown, and the Steelers won 25-21.

At Shea Stadium, "The Jinx" lived on. Jets players tried to downplay it, but after their game with Seattle, an indisputable fact loomed: They still had never beaten the Seahawks in seven tries.

One could argue that the Jets simply handed the game away; they did commit eight turnovers. But they were done in also by rookie running back Curt Warner, who rushed for 128 yards and two touchdowns.

"I was just back there saying 'Go, Curt, Go,' " said Seattle's Jim Zorn. "It's a thrill being a quarterback with a team that can run the ball. For seven years, I've been the second-leading rusher in Seattle."

NEWSMAKERS

Jackson

Lofton

Sipe

Quarterbacks **Brian Sipe** and **Jim Plunkett** both were instrumental in victories. Sipe completed 18 of 29 attempts for 234 yards and four touchdowns—and moved past Frank Ryan into first place on the all-time Cleveland list for career touchdown passes with 125—in a 31-26 win against Detroit. Plunkett was 19 of 28 for 229 yards and one touchdown to help lead the Raiders past Houston 20-6. Cornerback **Dennis Thurman** killed a St. Louis threat with an end-zone interception, and also recovered a fumble for a touchdown as Dallas won 34-17. Rookie **Ali Haji-Sheikh's** 30-yard field goal 3:38 into overtime gave the Giants a 16-13 win at Atlanta. Green Bay wide receiver **James Lofton** caught five passes for 169 yards, including touchdown receptions of 71, 73, and 12 yards, in the Packers' 25-21 loss to Pittsburgh. Seattle wide receiver **Harold Jackson's** lone 21-yard reception against the Jets moved him past **Lance Alworth** on the NFL's all-time receiving yardage list; his total of 10,286 yards trails only Don Maynard's 11,844. Cornerback **Terry Schmidt** returned an interception 32 yards for a touchdown to give Chicago a 17-10 victory over Tampa Bay.

STANDINGS

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
AFC East						
Miami	2	0	0	1.000	46	24
Baltimore	1	1	0	.500	39	40
Buffalo	1	1	0	.500	10	18
N.Y. Jets	1	1	0	.500	51	46
New England	0	2	0	.000	47	63
AFC Central						
Cleveland	1	1	0	.500	52	53
Pittsburgh	1	1	0	.500	35	35
Cincinnati	0	2	0	.000	16	30
Houston	0	2	0	.000	44	61
AFC West						
Denver	2	0	0	1.000	31	20
L.A. Raiders	2	0	0	1.000	40	16
Kansas City	1	1	0	.500	31	30
San Diego	1	1	0	.500	46	55
Seattle	1	1	0	.500	30	27
NFC East						
Dallas	2	0	0	1.000	65	47
N.Y. Giants	1	1	0	.500	22	29
Philadelphia	1	1	0	.500	35	40
Washington	1	1	0	.500	53	44
St. Louis	0	2	0	.000	34	62
NFC Central						
Chicago	1	1	0	.500	34	30
Detroit	1	1	0	.500	37	31
Green Bay	1	1	0	.500	62	63
Minnesota	1	1	0	.500	44	69
Tampa Bay	0	2	0	.000	10	28
NFC West						
L.A. Rams	2	0	0	1.000	46	33
Atlanta	1	1	0	.500	33	33
New Orleans	1	1	0	.500	55	47
San Francisco	1	1	0	.500	65	39

SCORES

American Football Conference
Buffalo 10, Cincinnati 6
Denver 17, Baltimore 10
Los Angeles Raiders 20, Houston 6
Miami 34, New England 24
San Diego 17, Kansas City 14
Seattle 17, New York Jets 10

National Football Conference
Chicago 17, Tampa Bay 10
Dallas 34, St. Louis 17
Los Angeles Rams 30, New Orleans 27
New York Giants 16, Atlanta 13, overtime
San Francisco 48, Minnesota 17
Washington 23, Philadelphia 13

Interconference Games
Cleveland 31, Detroit 26
Pittsburgh 25, Green Bay 21
AFC, 2 victories; NFC, 2 victories

► Clockwise from top left: *Safety Rod Kush (42) and the Buffalo defense cut down Bengals running back Charles Alexander in the Bills' crucial fourth-quarter goal-line stand. Seattle extended its streak against the Jets, thanks greatly to rookie Curt Warner's 128 yards rushing and two touchdowns. A 57-yard catch by rookie Otis Grant set up the Rams' winning touchdown against New Orleans. Wide receiver Ricky Feacher hugs a 42-yard touchdown bomb from Brian Sipe in the Browns' 31-26 win against Detroit. San Francisco running back Wendell Tyler leans into a pileup; the 49ers piled it on the Vikings 48-17. Walter Payton, trying to clear his own path past Tampa Bay linebacker Scot Brantley, caught a 73-yard touchdown pass in the Bears' 17-10 victory.*

The Raiders mete out more Monday night mayhem, Seattle's ground troops down Air Coryell, and the Patriots rebel.

3

Poor Miami. Not only did it have to play the Raiders in their lair at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (after coming up empty in six previous road encounters with the Raiders), but the Dolphins had to play the Raiders on *Monday night*. And the moon was almost full, no less.

The Raiders own Monday night. In their 23 appearances in the prime-time game, they have amassed a 20-2-1 record. As defensive end Howie Long put it, "When it's dark outside, we're hell."

As proof, Long and the Raiders' indestructible defense provided Miami with its own private purgatory, turning the anticipated early-season showdown between the two undefeated teams into as lopsided a 27-14 victory as you're likely to see. (Both Miami touchdowns came in the final three minutes, after the benches had been cleared, and long, long after the game had been decided.)

"That was about as thorough as you can get beat," said Miami coach Don Shula. "On their final touchdown, they were just kicking us around. They did whatever they wanted to. It was that way all night."

The final touchdown Shula referred to was a five-yard run by Greg Pruitt midway through the fourth quarter after a 63-yard clock-devouring drive.

But it was a big play by the Raiders' intimidating defense—the NFL's top-ranked unit—that put the Dolphins away late in the third quarter. Deep in Raiders territory, rookie defensive end Greg Townsend recovered a fumble by Miami quarterback David Woodley and raced 66 yards untouched for a touchdown to make the score 20-0.

The victory left the Raiders as one of only two unbeaten teams in the NFL. Dallas, thanks to big plays by safeties Michael Downs and Dextor Clinkscale, was the other.

Clinkscale intercepted a pass by quarterback Scott Brunner with 6:17 left, returning it 68 yards for a touchdown and a 21-13 lead. When Billy Campfield fumbled the ensuing kickoff on his own 10, Downs scooped up the loose ball and raced into the end zone, sinking the Giants 28-13.

At recently christened Sullivan Stadium in Foxboro, it was Tony Collins who sank the Jets. The third-year running back had a brilliant 212-yard, three-touchdown day to help the Patriots win 23-13.

Another surprise was Seattle's victory over San Diego. On second thought, maybe it wasn't a surprise. The Seahawks looked pretty "for real" in their second straight big win under new head coach Chuck Knox, this time a 34-31 decision over the Chargers.

The Seahawks borrowed a page from the Jets, who in Week One had successfully deployed a time-consuming, run-oriented attack designed to keep the Chargers' high-octane offense off the field as much as possible. They pounded away at the Chargers with a one-two punch of Curt Warner (109 yards rushing) and David Hughes (a career-high 90 yards rushing).

Even so, the 27-10 lead Seattle took into the fourth quarter wasn't entirely safe. Chargers quarterback Dan Fouts struck for three touchdown passes in the final period, including two to tight end Eric Sievers. But Seattle wide receiver Steve Largent answered one of the Fouts-to-Sievers touchdowns by catching a 42-yard scoring pass from Jim Zorn to put the game just out of reach.

Although the Rams spent extra time during the week practicing to thwart Green Bay's kick-blocking specialist, reserve tight end Gary Lewis, the 6-foot 5-inch Lewis swatted down a field goal try by placekicker Chuck Nelson with 2:10 remaining that would have broken a 24-24 tie.

The snuff allowed Jan Stenerud to decide the game in Green Bay's favor with a 36-yard field goal with one second left.

At RFK Stadium, the first 30 minutes of the Kansas City-Washington game belonged to the Chiefs. Nick Lowery kicked four field goals, including one from 58 yards to tie for the longest in AFC history, and the Chiefs held a 12-0 halftime lead.

But the Redskins did a 180 degree turn in the second half. Their big-play defense began causing turnovers and pressuring Chiefs quarterback Bill Kenney (five sacks), opening the door for a 27-12 victory.

NEWSMAKERS

Bartkowski

Dils

Payton

Steve Bartkowski passed for 366 yards and three touchdowns in Atlanta's 30-14 victory against Detroit. Three touchdowns by running back **Joe Cribbs** powered Buffalo to a 28-23 win over Baltimore. Bears running back **Walter Payton** rushed for 161 yards and threw touchdown passes of 56 and 21 yards to rookie wide receiver **Willie Gault** against New Orleans. But **Morten Andersen's** 41-yard field goal in overtime won it for the Saints. Minnesota's **Steve Dils,** in relief of injured quarterback **Tommy Kramer,** passed for 202 yards and connected for big gains with **Rickey Young** and **Terry LeCount** to set up field goals by **Benny Ricardo**—one that tied the Buccaneers with 24 seconds left, and a 42-yard game-winner 9:27 into overtime. **Tony Franklin** prevented an overtime by kicking a 43-yard field goal with 57 seconds left to lift the Eagles past Denver 13-10. **Walter Abercrombie** scored two touchdowns in the Steelers' 40-28 victory against Houston. Quarterback **Joe Montana** had 341 yards passing and three touchdowns against St. Louis as the 49ers breezed 42-27. **Mike Pruitt** rushed for 83 yards and a touchin Cleveland's 17-7 victory against Cincinnati.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Buffalo	2	1	0	.667	38	41
Miami	2	1	0	.667	60	51
Baltimore	1	2	0	.333	62	68
New England	1	2	0	.333	70	76
N.Y. Jets	1	2	0	.333	64	69
AFC Central						
Cleveland	2	1	0	.667	69	60
Pittsburgh	2	1	0	.667	75	63
Cincinnati	0	3	0	.000	23	47
Houston	0	3	0	.000	72	101
AFC West						
L.A. Raiders	3	0	0	1.000	67	30
Denver	2	1	0	.667	41	33
Seattle	2	1	0	.667	64	58
Kansas City	1	2	0	.333	43	57
San Diego	1	2	0	.333	77	89
NFC East						
Dallas	3	0	0	1.000	93	60
Philadelphia	2	1	0	.667	48	50
Washington	2	1	0	.667	80	56
N.Y. Giants	1	2	0	.333	35	57
St. Louis	0	3	0	.000	61	104
NFC Central						
Green Bay	2	1	0	.667	89	87
Minnesota	2	1	0	.667	63	85
Chicago	1	2	0	.333	65	64
Detroit	1	2	0	.333	51	61
Tampa Bay	0	3	0	.000	28	47
NFC West						
Atlanta	2	1	0	.667	63	47
L.A. Rams	2	1	0	.667	70	60
New Orleans	2	1	0	.667	89	78
San Francisco	2	1	0	.667	107	66

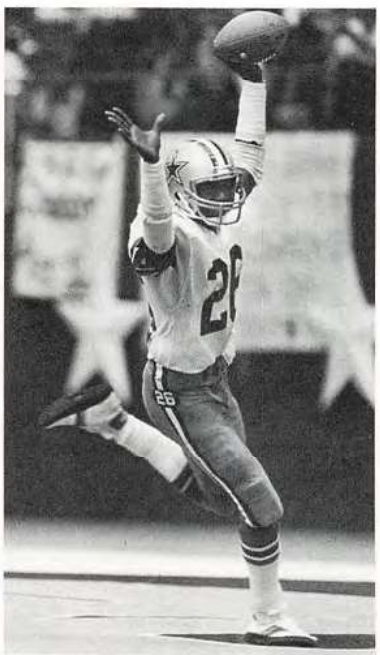
SCORES

American Football Conference
Buffalo 28, Baltimore 23
Cleveland 17, Cincinnati 7
Los Angeles Raiders 27, Miami 14
New England 23, New York Jets 13
Pittsburgh 40, Houston 28
Seattle 34, San Diego 31

National Football Conference
Atlanta 30, Detroit 14
Dallas 28, New York Gaints 13
Green Bay 27, Los Angeles Rams 24
Minnesota 19, Tampa Bay 16, overtime
New Orleans 34, Chicago 31, overtime
San Francisco 42, St. Louis 27

Interconference Games
Philadelphia 13, Denver 10
Washington 27, Kansas City 12
NFC, 4 victories; AFC, 2 victories

►Clockwise from top left: *A fumble after a slip by Rams rookie Eric Dickerson led to Green Bay placekicker Jan Stenerud's winning field goal. Quarterback Joe Montana was on the move and in a groove (341 yards passing) in the 49ers' 42-27 victory against St. Louis. A 27-yard touchdown catch by Frank Lewis helped Buffalo defeat the Colts. Linebacker John Woodring (57) and the Jets spent most of their day vainly chasing Tony Collins, who rushed for 212 yards in the Patriots' 23-13 victory. Marcus Allen (105 yards rushing) helped the Raiders dominate the Dolphins. Steve Largent had two touchdown catches as Seattle defused the Chargers. A touchdown by safety Michael Downs on a fumble recovery helped Dallas down the Giants 28-13.*



The AFC East gets five of a kind, Cleveland begins to palpitate, and a Ram decides to fight rather than dance.

4

The Browns were in San Diego, but hearts in Cleveland were with them—and beating faster.

It may still have seemed premature to revive the Kardiac Kids sobriquet, dormant since the Browns' thrill-a-minute 1980 season, when they won the AFC Central title. But two things were evident after the conclusion of the NFL's fourth week of play: The Browns had returned to their exciting ways, and they held the high ground in the AFC Central with a 3-1 record.

Those facts were confirmed with Cleveland's 30-24 overtime victory against the Chargers, when quarterback Brian Sipe and tight end Harry Holt connected for a game-winning 48-yard touchdown pass.

The Browns saw a 21-10 lead evaporate in the third quarter when Chargers quarterback Dan Fouts launched a pair of touchdown passes to wide receiver Wes Chandler. But Cleveland received a last-minute stay when Matt Bahr kicked a 32-yard field goal with 18 seconds left to force overtime.

Some pulse rates quickened elsewhere, particularly in the AFC East, which registered a rare five-game sweep this week.

Miami and Buffalo remained tied for first place with 3-1 records after recording victories against Kansas City and Houston, respectively. The Bills won easily with Joe Cribbs's 166-yard rushing day highlighting their 30-13 triumph. Miami had a tougher time, but managed to overcome seven turnovers—including a team-record five fumbles—and escaped with a 14-6 victory.

Fresh from its ambush of the Jets, New England defeated Pittsburgh for only the second time in its history. With the Steelers ahead 23-21 late in the fourth quarter, Patriots rookie wide receiver Stephen Starring took his name literally and turned a pass from quarterback Steve Grogan—one that had been designed merely to get a first down—into a 76-yard touchdown to give New England a 28-23 win.

In Baltimore, placekicker Raul Allegre atoned for his first field goal miss of the season—a potential game-winning 45-yard attempt with three seconds left in regulation—by connecting from 33 yards after 4:51 of overtime to beat Chicago 22-19.

The Jets completed the AFC East's perfect weekend when Pat Leahy kicked a 26-yard field goal at 8:22 of overtime to clinch a 27-24 victory against the Rams.

One of that game's subplots occurred in the second half, when Jets defensive end Mark Gastineau ignited tempers with one of his incendiary sack dances. Rams tackle Jackie Slater, obviously unappreciative of Gastineau's histrionics, shoved Gastineau from behind. Both players started scuffling, causing the benches to clear.

"He [Gastineau] should leave dancing to discos and get down to playing football," said Rams guard Dennis Harrah.

Point.

"Obviously, Jackie didn't like the dance," said Gastineau. "Maybe he wanted a two-step, or a waltz. The next time I do my war dance, I'm going to have to look behind my back. But I'll dance forever."

Counterpoint.

In a bizarre game at Dallas, the Cowboys somehow managed to withstand seven sacks, four interceptions, two fumbles, and a critical blocked extra point to defeat New Orleans 21-20. As Dallas running back Tony Dorsett put it, "We did everything humanly possible to lose."

Late in the game, with New Orleans ahead 20-19, Ken Stabler dropped back to pass. But Dallas linebacker Anthony Dickerson sacked him for a safety with 1:58 left, and the Cowboys remained perfect.

It was business as usual for the Raiders. That was bad news for the Denver Broncos, who suffered two interceptions, two lost fumbles, and five sacks in a 22-7 loss.

The Bengals won for the first time by victimizing former teammate Jack Thompson, Tampa Bay's new starting quarterback, with three interceptions. Cornerback Ken Riley turned the first one into a 34-yard touchdown in the game's opening minutes. Then, with time evaporating in the fourth quarter, safety Robert Jackson stole Thompson's pass in the end zone to ensure a 23-17 win.

NEWSMAKERS

Campbell

Clark

Holloway

St. Louis quarterback **Jim Hart's** 26-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver **Roy Green** gave the Cardinals their first victory of the year, a 14-11 win at Philadelphia. Rookie **Eric Dickerson** rushed for 192 yards, including an 85-yard touchdown run, in the Rams' loss to the Jets. Wide receiver **Dwight Clark** got the 49ers started toward a 24-20 win against Atlanta with two first-half touchdown catches. A defensive hero for Minnesota in its 20-17 win over Detroit was **Randy Holloway,** who had three sacks and also batted a pass by Detroit's **Eric Hipple** into the air, allowing teammate **Charlie Johnson** to intercept it. Houston's **Earl Campbell** had 142 yards rushing on 30 carries in a losing cause at Buffalo. One bright figure for the Steelers in their loss to New England was **Franco Harris,** who rushed for 106 yards and moved past **O.J. Simpson** into the number-two position on the NFL's all-time rushing list. Three touchdown passes from **Joe Theismann** powered Washington past Seattle 27-17. Cornerback **Terry Jackson** helped key a big-play defensive effort with a 35-yard return of a recovered fumble for a touchdown, as the Giants shut down Green Bay 27-3.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Buffalo	3	1	0	.750	68	54
Miami	3	1	0	.750	74	57
Baltimore	2	2	0	.500	84	87
New England	2	2	0	.500	98	99
N.Y. Jets	2	2	0	.500	91	93
AFC Central						
Cleveland	3	1	0	.750	99	84
Pittsburgh	2	2	0	.500	98	91
Cincinnati	1	3	0	.250	46	64
Houston	0	4	0	.000	85	131
AFC West						
L.A. Raiders	4	0	0	1.000	89	37
Denver	2	2	0	.500	48	55
Seattle	2	2	0	.500	81	85
Kansas City	1	3	0	.250	49	71
San Diego	1	3	0	.250	101	119
NFC East						
Dallas	4	0	0	1.000	114	80
Washington	3	1	0	.750	107	73
N.Y. Giants	2	2	0	.500	62	60
Philadelphia	2	2	0	.500	59	64
St. Louis	1	3	0	.250	75	115
NFC Central						
Minnesota	3	1	0	.750	83	102
Green Bay	2	2	0	.500	92	114
Chicago	1	3	0	.250	84	86
Detroit	1	3	0	.250	68	81
Tampa Bay	0	4	0	.000	43	70
NFC West						
San Francisco	3	1	0	.750	131	86
Atlanta	2	2	0	.500	83	71
L.A. Rams	2	2	0	.500	94	87
New Orleans	2	2	0	.500	109	99

SCORES

American Football Conference

Buffalo 30, Houston 13
Cleveland 30, San Diego 24, overtime
Los Angeles Raiders 22, Denver 7
Miami 14, Kansas City 6
New England 28, Pittsburgh 23

National Football Conference

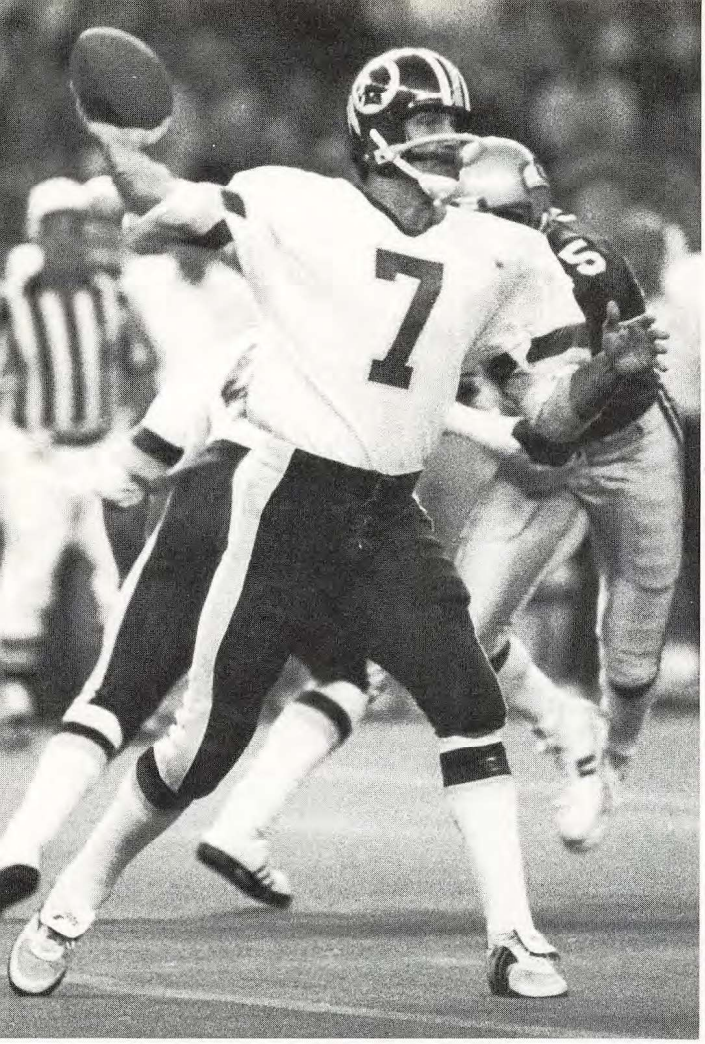
Dallas 21, New Orleans 20
Minnesota 20, Detroit 17
New York Giants 27, Green Bay 3
St. Louis 14, Philadelphia 11
San Francisco 24, Atlanta 20

Interconference Games

Baltimore 22, Chicago 19, overtime
Cincinnati 23, Tampa Bay 17
New York Jets 27, Los Angeles Rams 24, overtime
Washington 27, Seattle 17

AFC. 5 victories: NFC. 5 victories

►Clockwise from top left: *Quarterback Joe Theismann threw three touchdown passes in Washington's 27-17 victory against Seattle. When Pittsburgh fell to New England, O.J. Simpson fell to third place on the NFL's all-time rushing list, as Steelers running back Franco Harris gained 106 yards to move into second place with 11,309 yards. Cleveland tight end Harry Holt escapes from Chargers linebacker Woodrow Lowe for a game-winning 48-yard touchdown catch in overtime. Giants placekicker Ali Haji-Sheikh puts his foot into a team-record 56-yard field goal in a 27-3 victory against Green Bay. The Eagles suffered a Hart attack at Veteran's Stadium as 18-year veteran Jim Hart passed for two touchdowns to spark St. Louis's first 1983 victory.*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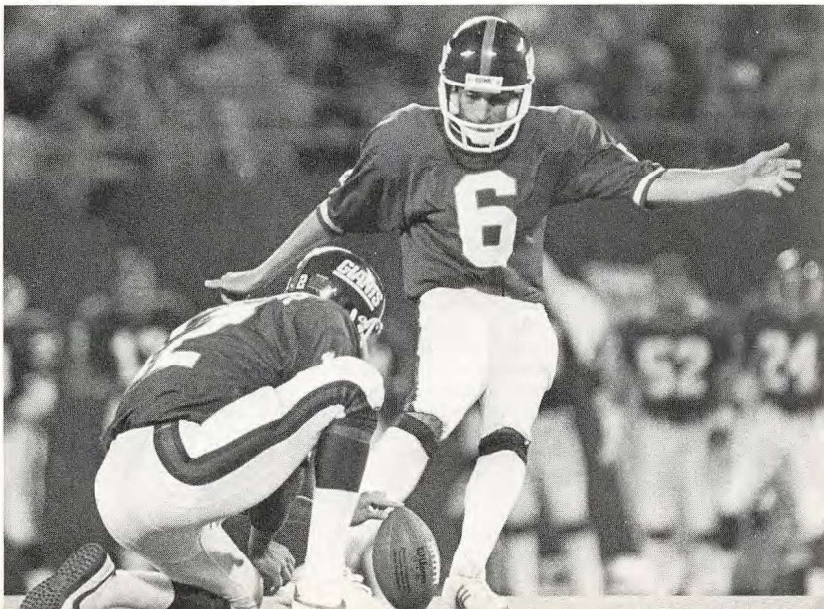

6

A gunslinger shoots down the Giants, a Mona Lisa turns up on Monday night, and the Colts earn a "special" victory.

5

The Redskins and the Raiders didn't play an ordinary football game at RFK Stadium this week. As Alan Greenberg of the *Los Angeles Times* put it, "It was art at its most uplifting, human athletic effort at its noblest, the *Chariots of Fire* of NFL '83."

Hitchcock should have directed this harrowing drama, which had more plot twists and turns than *North by Northwest*.

If you prefer a sports analogy, it was a toe-to-toe slugfest between two of the NFL's heavyweights; each team alternately delivering—and reeling from—roundhouses, but neither one falling until the final bell.

"This one," said Washington quarterback Joe Theismann, "went all fifteen rounds."

It did, despite an inauspicious start by the Raiders, who turned the ball over on their first four possessions. Those gaffes helped dig a 20-7 hole by the third period.

But Los Angeles stormed back behind quarterback Jim Plunkett. After three first-quarter interceptions, Plunkett balanced the books with three touchdown passes in the second half. And when Greg Pruitt returned a punt 97 yards for a touchdown midway through the fourth quarter, suddenly it was 35-20, Raiders.

These fireworks, incidentally, were accomplished without the benefit of either Marcus Allen (bruised hip) or Cliff Branch, who pulled a hamstring on an NFL record-tying 99-yard touchdown reception in the second quarter.

But the Raiders couldn't knock out the Redskins, who scored 17 points in the final eight minutes, including Theismann's six-yard scoring pass to Joe Washington with 33 seconds left to clinch a 37-35 victory.

Back on the west coast, the Rams were evoking some memories of their 1970s glory years. New head coach John Robinson's formula seemed strikingly familiar to that of former Los Angeles head coach Chuck Knox: combine equal parts of a relentless running attack and tough defense. The result: a 21-10 victory over Detroit.

"All we're missing now," said guard Dennis Harrah, "is Chuck Knox pulling up his pants and saying, 'That's Ram football.'"

Knox, of course, was engaged with his new team, the Seattle Seahawks, who forced four turnovers and cashed in on three of them while defeating Cleveland 24-9.

At Giants Stadium, Air Coryell pilot Dan Fouts was grounded with a shoulder injury in the second half. But stand-in Ed Luther calmly directed a pair of scoring drives—each climaxed by Chuck Muncie touchdown runs—to lead the Chargers past the Giants 41-34.

"We call Ed 'The Gunslinger,'" said San Diego tight end Kellen Winslow, "because he walks into a town where no one knows him, the best guy calls him out, and Ed shoots him down. We lose experience without Dan, but we don't lose a good arm or a smart quarterback."

The Steelers relied on one of their favorite, and most successful, antidotes against Houston—bruising defense. They limited Earl Campbell to 69 yards on 26 carries (a 2.7 average) and defeated the Oilers 17-10.

The Jets had similar success stopping ground threat Joe Cribbs in their 34-10 win at Buffalo on Monday night. Cribbs managed only 28 yards on 13 carries. He also was forced into a pair of fumbles, one of which was recovered by Jets defensive end Mark Gastineau (three sacks) in the Bills' end zone for a touchdown.

The surprising Colts won for the third time in five games, thanks largely to 254 yards in punt, kickoff, and interception returns, including a 90-yard kickoff return by Kendall Williams and a 50-yard punt return by Rick Porter, both of which set up scores.

Not so fortunate was Tampa Bay, which collapsed into a black hole against Green Bay, yielding 49 first-half points (an NFL record) and eventually losing 55-14.

Buccaneers head coach John McKay's postgame press conference was short, if not particularly sweet. "This is the worst performance of any team I've ever seen or been associated with," said McKay. "I've never seen a game like that. Thank you."

End of conference.

NEWSMAKERS

Gault

Jaworski

Wersching

Rookie **Eric Dickerson** rushed for 199 yards and three touchdowns on 30 carries in the Rams' victory against Detroit. Wide receiver **Cris Collinsworth** caught eight passes for a team-record 206 yards in Cincinnati's loss to Baltimore. **Tony Dorsett's** 141 yards rushing, and a 58-yard interception return for a touchdown by **Ron Fellows,** lifted Dallas over Minnesota 37-24. Chicago rookie **Willie Gault** only caught three passes against Denver, but he turned two of them into touchdowns to help the Bears to a 31-14 win. **Wayne Wilson**, playing for injured running back **George Rogers**, rushed for 160 yards in the Saints' 17-7 victory against the Dolphins. **Ron Jaworski** rushed for one touchdown and threw for three more to lead Philadelphia to a 28-24 win at Atlanta. A devastating block by fifteenth-year guard **Ed White** sprang **Chuck Muncie** for the game-winning 34-yard touchdown run in San Diego's triumph against the Giants. **Ray Wersching** kicked four field goals (45, 35, 36, and 24 yards) in San Francisco's win at New England. Raiders defensive end **Howie Long** had four sacks in his team's last-second loss at Washington.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Baltimore	3	2	0	.600	118	118
Buffalo	3	2	0	.600	78	88
Miami	3	2	0	.600	81	74
N.Y. Jets	3	2	0	.600	125	103
New England	2	3	0	.400	111	132
AFC Central						
Cleveland	3	2	0	.600	108	108
Pittsburgh	3	2	0	.600	115	101
Cincinnati	1	4	0	.200	77	98
Houston	0	5	0	.000	95	148
AFC West						
L.A. Raiders	4	1	0	.800	124	74
Seattle	3	2	0	.600	105	94
Denver	2	3	0	.400	62	86
Kansas City	2	3	0	.400	87	85
San Diego	2	3	0	.400	142	153
NFC East						
Dallas	5	0	0	1.000	151	104
Washington	4	1	0	.800	144	108
Philadelphia	3	2	0	.600	87	88
N.Y. Giants	2	3	0	.400	96	101
St. Louis	1	4	0	.200	89	153
NFC Central						
Green Bay	3	2	0	.600	147	128
Minnesota	3	2	0	.600	107	139
Chicago	2	3	0	.400	115	100
Detroit	1	4	0	.200	78	102
Tampa Bay	0	5	0	.000	57	125
NFC West						
San Francisco	4	1	0	.800	164	99
L.A. Rams	3	2	0	.600	115	97
New Orleans	3	2	0	.600	126	106
Atlanta	2	3	0	.400	107	99

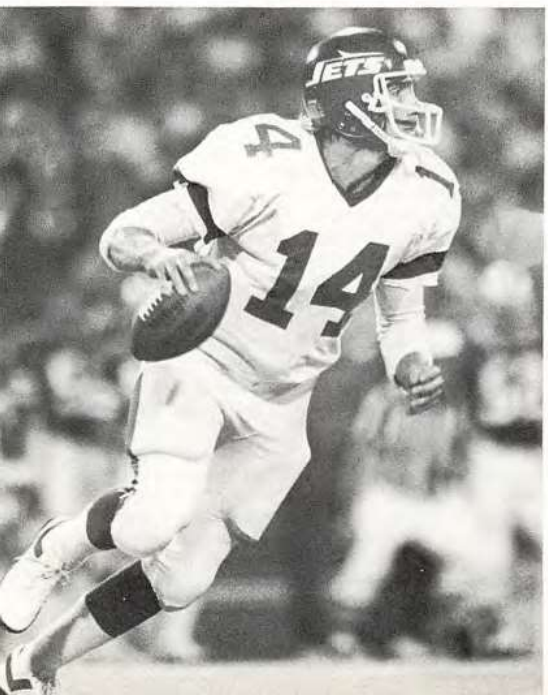
SCORES

American Football Conference
Baltimore 34, Cincinnati 31
New York Jets 34, Buffalo 10
Pittsburgh 17, Houston 10
Seattle 24, Cleveland 9

National Football Conference
Dallas 37, Minnesota 24
Green Bay 55, Tampa Bay 14
Los Angeles Rams 21, Detroit 10
Philadelphia 28, Atlanta 24

Interconference Games
Chicago 31, Denver 14
Kansas City 38, St. Louis 14
New Orleans 17, Miami 7
San Diego 41, New York Giants 34
San Francisco 33, New England 13
Washington 37, Los Angeles Raiders 35
NFC, 9 victories; AFC, 7 victories

►Clockwise from top: *Joe Washington tumbles into the end zone with a six-yard touchdown catch and the winning points in the Redskins' 37-35 victory against the Raiders. Seattle's Curt Warner clears Cleveland nose tackle Bob Golic; the Seahawks cleared the Browns 24-9. Eric Dickerson—rarely caught flat-footed—rushed for 199 yards and three touchdowns as the Rams beat Detroit. Wide receiver Dwight Clark focuses on a third-quarter 13-yard touchdown pass in San Francisco's 33-13 victory against New England. Quarterback Richard Todd passed for 221 yards and two touchdowns to help the Jets blast the Bills 34-10. Rick Woods is a safety-turned-ball carrier after intercepting Houston quarterback Gifford Nielsen in Pittsburgh's 17-10 win.*



An owner speaks up, a coach steps down, a quarterback gets hot, and somehow Dallas comes back again.

6

For the past 16 years, the Bills would probably just as soon have traveled to Siberia as to Miami.

With only a 14-14 tie in 1968 interrupting a string of 15 consecutive losses at the Orange Bowl, Buffalo's annual trip to Miami had become an annual nightmare.

But this week the Bills brought the right stuff to the Orange Bowl, and halted the chronic whammy with a 38-35 victory.

It wasn't easy, not even with quarterback Joe Ferguson playing the game of his career. Ferguson completed 38 of 55 passes for 419 yards and five touchdowns. The fifth scoring pass—a one-yard toss to running back Joe Cribbs with 23 seconds left in regulation—sent the game into overtime. Joe Danelo then won it—after Miami's Uwe von Schamman had missed from 52 and 43 yards—with a 36-yard field goal with just over a minute left.

The day really belonged to Ferguson, whose career-high five touchdown passes stunned the NFL's second-ranked defense—one that had allowed just four touchdown passes in its first five games.

"This is something I really wanted to do before I got out of football," said Ferguson. "I'd like to do it again sometime. It really hasn't sunk in that we did this against the Dolphins, because you just don't do that."

Baltimore moved into a first-place tie with Buffalo in the AFC East with a 12-7 victory over New England, which self-destructed with critical turnovers, penalties, and dropped passes.

"You want to hear the joke of the century?" asked Colts head coach Frank Kush. "We killed them. Ha ha. They really killed themselves."

Houston's Ed Biles was in a less jovial mood. He resigned as head coach in the wake of the Oilers' sixth straight loss this year, a 26-14 decision to Denver. It was the club's thirteenth consecutive defeat overall, and left Biles with an 8-23 record at Houston since replacing Bum Phillips in 1981.

Big defensive plays loomed large in victories by Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and even defensively troubled San Diego.

Linebacker Tom Cousineau's third-quarter fumble recovery and fourth-quarter interception punctuated a sharp defensive effort by Cleveland, which defeated the Jets 10-7.

The Steelers retained a share of first place in the AFC Central with the Browns, thanks to a scoring outburst by their secondary, which accounted for three touchdowns in all and led the team to a 24-14 victory against Cincinnati.

Safety Rick Woods returned a fumble 38 yards for the game's first score, and secondary companions Ron Johnson and Harvey Clayton both turned fourth-quarter interceptions into touchdowns.

"Three defensive scores is a helluva offense," said head coach Chuck Noll.

Steelers quarterback Cliff Stoudt looked at it another way. "You're lucky when you win a football game this way."

As for the Chargers, they got into trouble early, falling behind Seattle 21-0. But they drew even early in the fourth quarter, and then second-year safety Andre Young raced 40 yards for a touchdown with an interception with 2:04 left to give the Chargers a 28-21 victory.

The Comeback Cowboys did it again. Tom Landry called it a miracle. Wide receiver Butch Johnson called it ridiculous. Whatever, the unbeaten Cowboys came from behind for the sixth consecutive week to defeat Tampa Bay 27-24.

Heroics this time were provided by Timmy Newsome, whose 52-yard touchdown reception with 47 seconds left in regulation tied the game, and Rafael Septien, whose 42-yard overtime field goal won it.

A pregame pep talk by owner William Clay Ford, who told his players to relax, have fun, and play exciting football, was tonic enough for the Lions. They did all of the above in a 38-14 win against the Packers.

The Packers' loss allowed Minnesota, which received 104 yards rushing from Tony Galbreath and 78 more from Darrin Nelson in a 23-14 victory at Chicago, to assume sole possession of first place in the NFC Central.

NEWSMAKERS

Andersen

Hendricks

Winder

Both Los Angeles teams benefited from blocked kicks in victories this week. The Rams' **Ivory Sully** deflected Ray Wersching's 51-yard game-tying attempt to preserve a 10-7 victory against the 49ers, and Raiders linebacker **Ted Hendricks** snuffed a 48-yard attempt by Kansas City's Nick Lowery with nine seconds left to ensure a 21-20 win. **Morten Andersen's** fourth field goal of the game—from 35 yards with no time remaining—gave New Orleans a 19-17 victory at Atlanta. Eagles second-year wide receiver **Mike Quick** caught touchdown passes of 18 and 5 yards as Philadelphia overcame the Giants 17-13. Running back **John Riggins** rushed for 115 yards and three touchdowns to lead Washington past St. Louis 38-14. In his first start for Miami, rookie quarterback **Dan Marino** passed for 322 yards and three touchdowns, though the Dolphins fell in overtime. Two of Marino's touchdowns went to wide receiver **Mark Duper**, who caught seven passes for 202 yards. Running back **Sammy Winder** rushed for 165 yards to help Denver, which ranked twenty-eighth in the NFL in total offense entering its game with Houston, prevail 26-14.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Baltimore	4	2	0	.667	130	125
Buffalo	4	2	0	.667	116	123
Miami	3	3	0	.500	116	112
N.Y. Jets	3	3	0	.500	132	113
New England	2	4	0	.333	118	144
AFC Central						
Cleveland	4	2	0	.667	118	115
Pittsburgh	4	2	0	.667	139	115
Cincinnati	1	5	0	.167	91	122
Houston	0	6	0	.000	109	174
AFC West						
L.A. Raiders	5	1	0	.833	145	94
Denver	3	3	0	.500	88	100
San Diego	3	3	0	.500	170	174
Seattle	3	3	0	.500	126	122
Kansas City	2	4	0	.333	107	106
NFC East						
Dallas	6	0	0	1.000	178	128
Washington	5	1	0	.833	182	122
Philadelphia	4	2	0	.667	104	101
N.Y. Giants	2	4	0	.333	109	118
St. Louis	1	5	0	.167	103	191
NFC Central						
Minnesota	4	2	0	.667	130	153
Green Bay	3	3	0	.500	161	166
Chicago	2	4	0	.333	129	123
Detroit	2	4	0	.333	116	116
Tampa Bay	0	6	0	.000	81	152
NFC West						
L.A. Rams	4	2	0	.667	125	104
New Orleans	4	2	0	.667	145	123
San Francisco	4	2	0	.667	171	109
Atlanta	2	4	0	.333	124	118

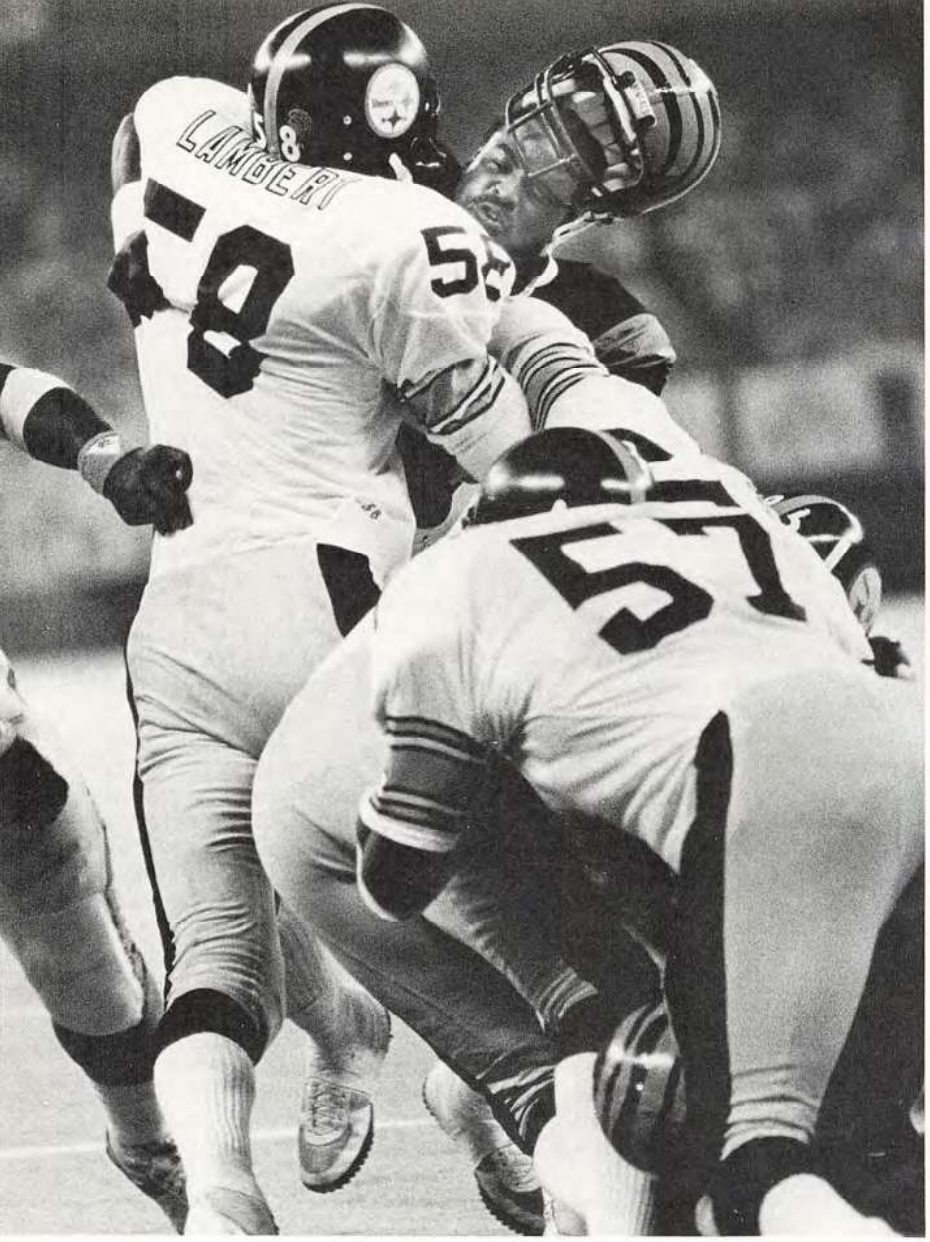
SCORES

American Football Conference
Baltimore 12, New England 7
Buffalo 38, Miami 35, overtime
Cleveland 10, New York Jets 7
Denver 26, Houston 14
Los Angeles Raiders 21, Kansas City 20
Pittsburgh 24, Cincinnati 14
San Diego 28, Seattle 21

National Football Conference
Dallas 27, Tampa Bay 24, overtime
Detroit 38, Green Bay 14
Los Angeles Rams 10, San Francisco 7
Minnesota 23, Chicago 14
New Orleans 19, Atlanta 17
Philadelphia 17, New York Giants 13
Washington 38, St. Louis 14

Interconference Games
NFC, 9 victories; AFC, 7 victories

►Clockwise from top left: *Bengals rookie running back Stanley Wilson learns there's still plenty of steel in Pittsburgh's veteran linebacker Jack Lambert; the Steelers' defense scored 21 points in a 24-14 victory. Linebacker Linden King teaches stellar Seahawks rookie rusher Curt Warner a few lessons in Seattle's 28-21 loss to San Diego. Browns linebacker Tom Cousineau intercepts a pass to preserve a 10-7 victory over the New York Jets. Vikings running back Darrin Nelson tutored the Bears in Offense 101; he had 239 total yards in Minnesota's 23-14 win. Holder Nolan Cromwell congratulates rookie Los Angeles kicker Chuck Nelson on his 41-yard third-quarter field goal that was the margin of victory in the Rams' 10-7 win against the 49ers.*


LAMBERT
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57

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44

Panic in Detroit, the Packers and Redskins shake, rattle, and roll, and Pittsburgh steals another win.

7

"They played the Olympics early this year with Green Bay as the site," said Washington quarterback Joe Theismann after the Redskins lost a 48-47 track meet to the Packers on Monday night. "I have never been in a game like this before, and I hope I never am again."

If that's how Theismann felt, think how difficult it must have been for the defenses. In addition to the staggering total of 95 points, the two teams accounted for 1,025 yards in total offense and 56 first downs.

Theismann led the Redskins' assault, passing for 398 yards and two touchdowns. His Green Bay counterpart, Lynn Dickey, ravaged the Washington secondary for 387 yards passing and three touchdowns.

This one was survival of the fittest all the way. There were five lead changes in the fourth quarter alone, the final one turning in Green Bay's favor on Jan Stenerud's 20-yard field goal with 54 seconds left.

Washington actually had one last gasp, but Mark Moseley, who kicked four field goals in the game, missed wide right from 39 yards on the game's final play.

Dallas caught Philadelphia off guard with a five-man defensive front, and pounded the rush-less Eagles (44 yards on the ground) 37-7 to move two games in front of Washington in the NFC East race.

In the NFC West, San Francisco and the Los Angeles Rams overcame divisional opponents New Orleans and Atlanta, respectively, to remain in a first-place tie.

The Falcons, who limited Rams rookie Eric Dickerson to 64 yards on 29 carries (a 2.2 average), built two different 14-point leads at Anaheim Stadium.

But Dickerson managed a pair of touchdowns, increasing his league-leading total to 12. Then Rams quarterback Vince Ferragamo saved the day. Ferragamo completed a 57-yard drive in the final minutes with a two-yard scoring pass to running back Mike Guman to give Los Angeles a 27-21 victory.

The 49ers' offense—the second most potent unit in the NFL—didn't score a touchdown until the final two minutes against New Orleans (on a 34-yard run by Wendell Tyler). But San Francisco's defense kept the Saints at arm's length, Ray Wersching kicked a team-record six field goals, and the 49ers recovered from a 13-6 halftime disadvantage to win 32-13.

At Three Rivers Stadium, the Pittsburgh defense, now known as the Steal Curtain, continued its larceny. The "Stealers" intercepted Cleveland quarterback Brian Sipe six times, recovered a fumble for a touchdown, and overwhelmed the Browns 44-17.

"We always had one foot in the grave and one on a banana peel," said Browns head coach Sam Rutigliano, whose team remains winless in Three Rivers Stadium.

The New York Jets, who suffered five interceptions in last year's AFC Championship Game loss to Miami, must have felt a twinge of *deja vu* in their first regular-season rematch with the Dolphins at Shea Stadium. Jets quarterback Richard Todd had five of his passes picked off by the Dolphins' defense, and when Todd was benched in the fourth quarter, replacement Pat Ryan was victimized once to give Miami a team record-tying six interceptions (three of them were by William Judson).

It wasn't technically the game-winner, but a misbegotten touchdown on an unintentional fake field goal iced Detroit's 31-17 victory against Chicago.

Leading 24-17 with 1:18 left, the Lions lined up for a 16-yard field goal attempt by Eddie Murray. Murray, however, mistakenly thought he heard quarterback Eric Hipple audible for a fake, and purposely missed the ball. The stunned Hipple—caught holding the ball—picked it up and ran eight yards for a touchdown.

"That's what panic will do for you," Hipple said. "I thought he just missed the ball. There was nothing I could do but run. I had kind of a sore foot, but I didn't want to sit back there and get killed."

The Lions' victory also marked the return of running back Billy Sims, who provided a lift by rushing for 77 yards and scoring Detroit's first touchdown in his first action since breaking a hand in Week Three.

NEWSMAKERS

Elshire

Johns

Sanford

Minnesota defensive end **Neil Elshire**, a three-year veteran making his first NFL start, had three sacks, 11 tackles, a blocked pass, a fumble recovery, and a forced fumble resulting in a touchdown as the Vikings defeated Houston 34-14 despite 130 yards rushing from **Earl Campbell**. Kansas City quarterback **Bill Kenney's** career-high 342 yards passing and four touchdowns were too much for the Giants, who lost 38-17. Running back **Joe Cribbs** rushed for 105 yards and caught a 14-yard touchdown pass as Buffalo took sole possession of first place in the AFC East with a 30-7 victory at Baltimore. Safety **Rick Sanford's** fumble recovery and interception led to 10 points as the Patriots defeated San Diego 37-21. Quarterback **Steve DeBerg** (284 yards and two touchdowns passing) was instrumental in Denver's victory against Cincinnati. Three touchdown passes from **Neil Lomax** helped St. Louis top Tampa Bay 34-27. One bright spot for Cleveland in its loss to Pittsburgh was rookie **Boyce Green**, who rushed for 137 yards and two touchdowns. **Paul Johns** returned a punt 75 yards for a touchdown in Seattle's 38-36 victory against the Raiders.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Buffalo	5	2	0	.714	146	130
Baltimore	4	3	0	.571	137	155
Miami	4	3	0	.571	148	126
New England	3	4	0	.429	155	165
N.Y. Jets	3	4	0	.429	146	145
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	5	2	0	.714	183	132
Cleveland	4	3	0	.571	135	159
Cincinnati	1	6	0	.143	108	146
Houston	0	7	0	.000	123	208
AFC West						
L.A. Raiders	5	2	0	.714	181	132
Denver	4	3	0	.571	112	117
Seattle	4	3	0	.571	164	158
Kansas City	3	4	0	.429	145	123
San Diego	3	4	0	.429	191	211
NFC East						
Dallas	7	0	0	1.000	215	135
Washington	5	2	0	.714	229	170
Philadelphia	4	3	0	.571	111	138
N.Y. Giants	2	5	0	.286	126	156
St. Louis	2	5	0	.286	137	218
NFC Central						
Minnesota	5	2	0	.714	164	167
Green Bay	4	3	0	.571	209	213
Detroit	3	4	0	.429	147	133
Chicago	2	5	0	.286	146	154
Tampa Bay	0	7	0	.000	108	186
NFC West						
L.A. Rams	5	2	0	.714	152	125
San Francisco	5	2	0	.714	203	122
New Orleans	4	3	0	.511	158	155
Atlanta	2	5	0	.286	145	145

SCORES

American Football Conference
Buffalo 30, Baltimore 7
Denver 24, Cincinnati 17
Miami 32, New York Jets 14
New England 37, San Diego 21
Pittsburgh 44, Cleveland 17
Seattle 38, Los Angeles Raiders 36

National Football Conference
Dallas 37, Philadelphia 7
Detroit 31, Chicago 17
Green Bay 48, Washington 47
Los Angeles Rams 27, Atlanta 21
St. Louis 34, Tampa Bay 27
San Francisco 32, New Orleans 13

Interconference Games
Kansas City 38, New York Giants 17
Minnesota 34, Houston 14
NFC, 10 victories; AFC, 8 victories

► Clockwise from top left: *Boyce Green gained 137 of Cleveland's 159 rushing yards, but the Steelers gained their fourteenth straight victory over Cleveland in Three Rivers Stadium, 44-17. New England nose tackle Dennis Owens crumples Chargers quarterback Dan Fouts in the Patriots' 37-21 win. Running back Robb Riddick of Buffalo slices through Baltimore's defense in the Bills' 30-7 victory. Don Smith climbs aboard Rams quarterback Vince Ferragamo; Atlanta, however, was derailed 27-21. Safety Dwight Hicks scores the 49ers' first touchdown against the Saints on a 62-yard interception return late in the third quarter; San Francisco prevailed 32-13. Running back Dave Preston was Denver's Mr. Offense in the Broncos' 24-17 victory against the Bengals.*

29
66
58

55
55
46
POOLE

22

Dallas finally tastes defeat, the 49ers "sack" the Rams, and Miami's kid quarterback belies his tender years.

8

It was just 1 of 224 games in the NFL's 16-week regular season schedule, but the Cowboys and Raiders whipped up something a little special for their Sunday primetime engagement at Texas Stadium.

Maybe it was because even the players seemed to get caught up in the week-long buildup that hyped the rare confrontation between these two longstanding glamor teams. (It was only their third meeting ever.)

"I think the game was a preview of the Super Bowl," said Raiders cornerback Lester Hayes afterward.

If so, the folks at Tampa Stadium on January 22 are in for a treat. If not, this at least was one game that lived up to its billing.

"It was one of the greatest games in Raiders history," said Tom Flores, whose own association with the team began in 1960, when he was a quarterback for the Raiders. So take his word for it.

From the game's opening minutes, when Dallas quarterback Danny White *caught* a 15-yard touchdown pass from running back Ron Springs on a Shotgun flea-flicker play, until Chris Bahr's 26-yard field goal with 20 seconds left gave the Raiders a 40-38 victory (and the Cowboys their first loss of the year), there was never a dull moment.

Before the game, Flores decided to bench struggling quarterback Jim Plunkett, entrusting the Raiders' offense to fourth-year backup Marc Wilson. Wilson delivered, passing for 318 yards and three touchdowns.

Another special delivery came from running back Frank Hawkins, who rushed for a career-high 118 yards on 17 carries.

But even though the Raiders managed to handcuff the Dallas running game (81 yards), they conversely helped keep the Cowboys in the game with six turnovers, including a fumble by Wilson that Mike Hegman returned nine yards for a touchdown and a 38-34 Dallas lead early in the fourth quarter.

Bahr cut that lead to 38-37 with a 26-yard field goal with 9:40 left, and then won it from the same distance in the final minute.

The loss took some of the fat out of the Cowboys' lead in the NFC East, as Washington overpowered Detroit 38-17 to move to within one game of first place.

The Redskins had little cause to miss injured running back John Riggins; Joe Washington took command on the ground with a career-high 147 yards rushing and a touchdown reception. "He can jitterbug and he can slither," said Detroit safety Alvin Hall.

Minnesota secured its first-place footing in the NFC Central by defeating Green Bay 20-17 to open up a two-game lead.

The Vikings didn't take all of the juice out of Green Bay's passing game, but with seven sacks and three interceptions, they pulled the plug often enough to lessen the impact of Packers quarterback Lynn Dickey's 383 yards passing.

Minnesota did much of its own offensive damage on the ground, with running back Ted Brown burrowing through the Packers for a career-high 179 yards. The Vikings won the game in overtime on a 32-yard field goal by Benny Ricardo.

Miami played errorless football when it counted; it defeated Baltimore 21-7 in a driving rainstorm at Memorial Stadium.

"Dan Marino didn't seem to think it was raining out there," said Don Shula of his prized rookie quarterback, who threw two touchdown passes. "And, we didn't make any mistakes out there late in the game. On a day like this, that's really helpful."

Denver won for the third straight time since head coach Dan Reeves replaced rookie quarterback John Elway with Steve DeBerg. This time the victim was injury-riddled San Diego (no Dan Fouts, no Chuck Muncie), which managed only two field goals by Rolf Benirschke in the 14-6 loss.

While Tampa Bay head coach John McKay was being besieged at Tampa Stadium, New Orleans weathered a bleak performance by quarterback Ken Stabler (12 of 29 for 94 yards, four interceptions) to defeat McKay's winless Buccaneers 24-21.

"Nolan Ryan doesn't pitch a shutout every time, does he?" asked Bum Phillips. "Stabler hit the passes he had to hit. The same guy that throws the home run pitch can be the same guy that strikes a guy out."

NEWSMAKERS

Board

Collins

Martin

Billy Johnson caught a 15-yard touchdown pass, scored on a 71-yard punt return, and set up two other scores with a 41-yard punt return and a 36-yard run as Atlanta rallied from a 21-0 deficit to defeat the Jets 27-21. Defensive end **Dwaine Board** ripped the ball from **Vince Ferragamo** (five touchdown passes) as he sacked the Rams' quarterback in the Los Angeles end zone, then held on to it for the decisive touchdown as the 49ers won 45-35 in the battle for first place in the NFC West at Anaheim Stadium. Cornerback **Ken Riley** intercepted the sixtieth pass of his 15-year career and returned it for the winning touchdown in the fourth quarter of Cincinnati's 28-21 victory against Cleveland. A 147-yard rushing day by **Tony Collins** led New England past Buffalo 31-0. Defensive end **Doug Martin** had five sacks and safety **John Swain** intercepted Green Bay quarterback **Lynn Dickey** twice in the Vikings' 20-17 win at Green Bay. New Orleans safety **Bobby Johnson** (brother of Rams free safety Johnnie) returned an interception 70 yards for a touchdown late in the third quarter for the winning points in the Saints' 24-21 victory at Tampa Bay.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Buffalo	5	3	0	.625	146	161
Miami	5	3	0	.625	169	133
Baltimore	4	4	0	.500	144	176
New England	4	4	0	.500	186	165
N.Y. Jets	3	5	0	.375	167	172
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	6	2	0	.750	210	153
Cleveland	4	4	0	.500	156	187
Cincinnati	2	6	0	.250	136	167
Houston	0	8	0	.000	133	221
AFC West						
L.A. Raiders	6	2	0	.750	221	170
Denver	5	3	0	.625	126	123
Kansas City	4	4	0	.500	158	133
Seattle	4	4	0	.500	185	185
San Diego	3	5	0	.375	197	225
NFC East						
Dallas	7	1	0	.875	253	175
Washington	6	2	0	.750	267	187
Philadelphia	4	4	0	.500	117	145
N.Y. Giants	2	5	1	.313	146	176
St. Louis	2	5	1	.313	157	238
NFC Central						
Minnesota	6	2	0	.750	184	184
Green Bay	4	4	0	.500	226	233
Chicago	3	5	0	.375	153	160
Detroit	3	5	0	.375	164	171
Tampa Bay	0	8	0	.000	129	210
NFC West						
San Francisco	6	2	0	.750	248	157
L.A. Rams	5	3	0	.625	187	170
New Orleans	5	3	0	.625	182	176
Atlanta	3	5	0	.375	172	166

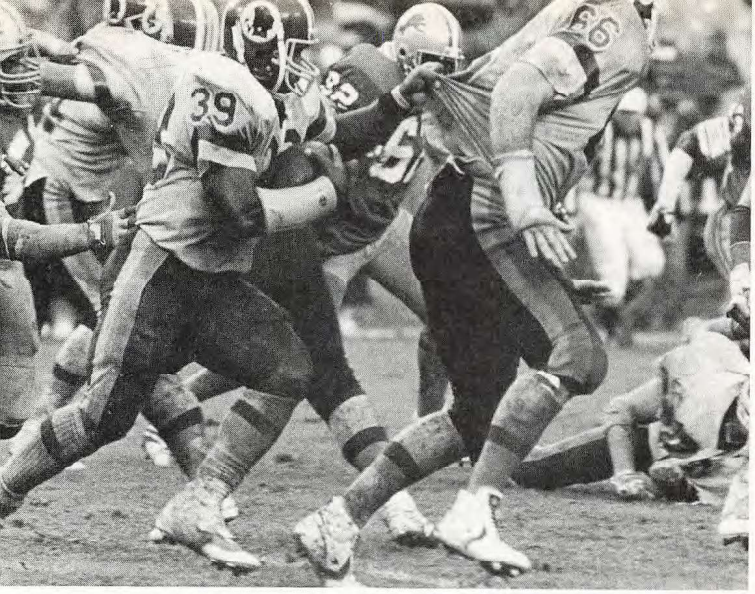
SCORES

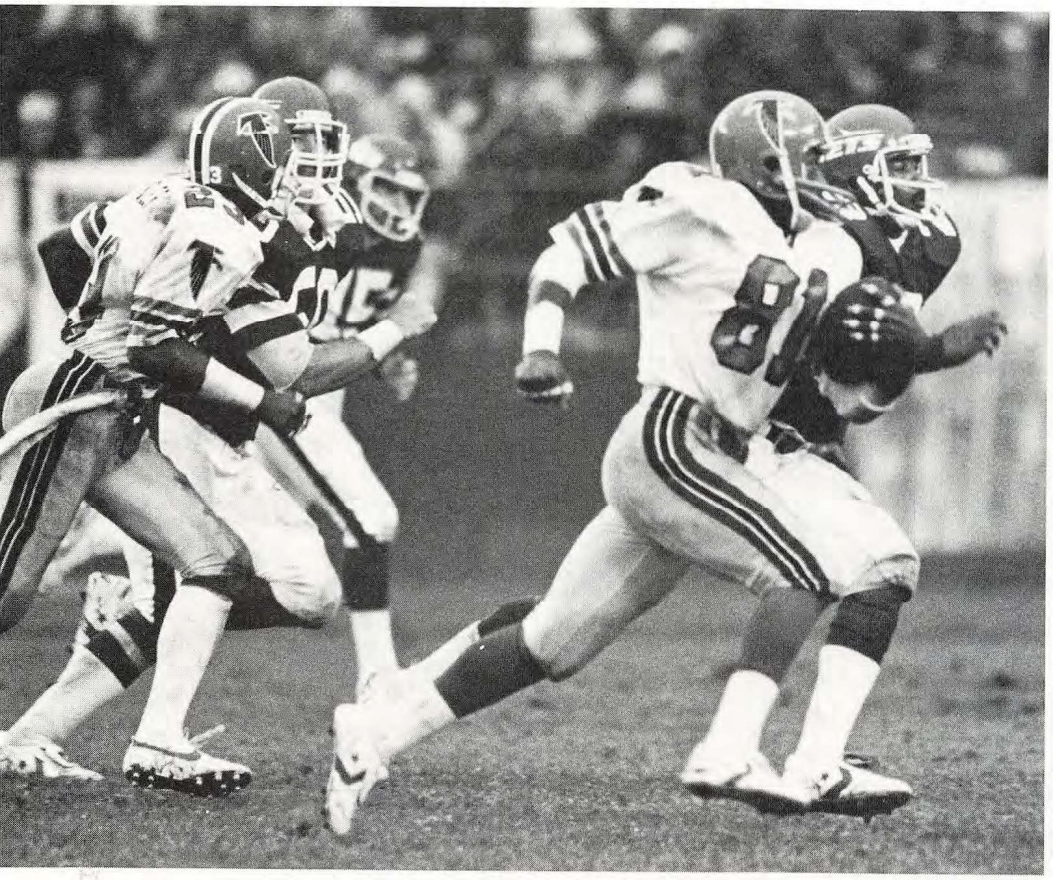
American Football Conference
Cincinnati 28, Cleveland 21
Denver 14, San Diego 6
Kansas City 13, Houston 10, overtime
Miami 21, Baltimore 7
New England 31, Buffalo 0
Pittsburgh 27, Seattle 21

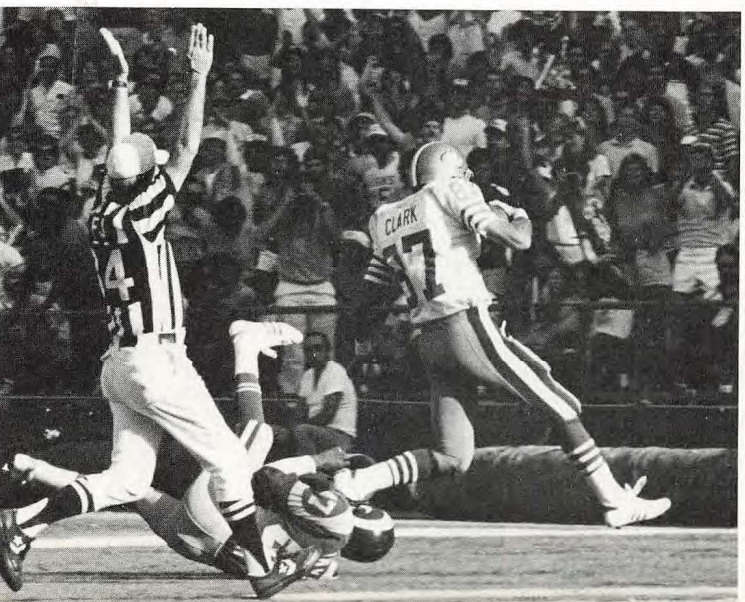
National Football Conference
Chicago 7, Philadelphia 6
Minnesota 20, Green Bay 17, overtime
New Orleans 24, Tampa Bay 21
New York Giants 20, St. Louis 20, overtime
San Francisco 45, Los Angeles Rams 35
Washington 38, Detroit 17

Interconference Games
Atlanta 27, New York Jets 21
Los Angeles Raiders 40, Dallas 38
NFC, 11 victories; AFC, 9 victories

▶ Clockwise from top left: *Running back Otis Wonsley, subbing for the injured John Riggins, holds on to tackle Joe Jacoby; the Redskins held on to a 38-17 victory over Detroit. The Patriots' defense wrapped up the Bills the way Julius Adams wrapped up Joe Ferguson in a 31-0 New England victory. Raiders quarterback Marc Wilson celebrated his first start of 1983 with a big 40-38 win over Dallas. Franco Harris's fourth 100-yard game (132) of the season helped Pittsburgh beat Seattle 27-21. Dwight Clark's 46-yard touchdown catch heralded a 45-35 49ers victory over the Rams. Flying Falcon Billy (White Shoes) Johnson brought Atlanta from behind to beat the Jets 27-21 with two long fourth-quarter punt returns, one for a 71-yard touchdown.*






CLARK

The Jets—and their coach—turn it around, the Bengals win big with their big man, and Pittsburgh shows what it takes.

9

"Whatever it takes."

Sound familiar? Veteran dynasty watchers may recall the phrase as one of Pittsburgh head coach Chuck Noll's mottos for the 1974 Steelers. That club, the first of his four Super Bowl championship teams, often relied on ingenuity to pull out victories.

Well, the Steelers—and Noll—are at it again.

Despite floundering for three quarters with a static offense against winless Tampa Bay this week, the Steelers answered an instinctive wakeup call in the fourth quarter and wiped out a 12-0 deficit with 17 unanswered points to gain a 17-12 victory.

"We didn't play very good football offensively for three quarters," said Noll. "But our defense kept us in there. That's all it took. Whatever it takes."

It also took an 11-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Cliff Stoudt, a 42-yard field goal by Gary Anderson, and a two-yard touchdown run by Frank Pollard to pull the game out. But it was an inspired defensive effort, which limited the Buccaneers to four Bill Capece field goals, that again saved the day for Pittsburgh.

How good was the defense? "I've been here ten years," said linebacker Jack Lambert, "and I've never been prouder of the defense than I was today."

Just how good are this year's Steelers? "I don't think these young guys know yet how good they can be," said Noll.

Good enough to wield a 7-2 record and maintain a two-game lead in the AFC Central over Cleveland, which extended the misery of untoward Houston with a 25-19 overtime victory. It was the luckless and winless Oilers' second straight loss in overtime.

Cincinnati banged into the Packers 34-14 as fullback Pete Johnson—all 270 pounds of him—rushed for 112 yards and two touchdowns in his first start of the season.

"Johnson is in a class by himself," said Green Bay defensive end Byron Braggs. "I've never tried to stop a 270-pound back before. You just can't prepare for that kind of runner, which is why I say he's in a class by himself. Who can you compare him to?"

Despite dipping under .500, the Packers didn't lose any ground to NFC Central leader Minnesota, which had its own problems this week. Two of them were named Neil Lomax (three touchdown passes) and Ottis Anderson (136 yards rushing), who helped the Cardinals blast the Vikings 41-31.

The AFC East and NFC West squared off against one another with four direct confrontations. Final tally: AFC East 3, NFC West 1.

Miami, with rookie quarterback Dan Marino exploiting an injury-weakened Rams secondary, was more than Los Angeles could handle. Marino ripped the Rams for 279 yards and two touchdowns passing, and overshadowed sensational fellow rookie Eric Dickerson of the Rams (101 yards rushing) as the Dolphins won 30-14.

Although quarterback Dave Wilson fired up the Saints in the fourth quarter against Buffalo, their late rally fell short, and the Bills, who at one point held a 20-0 advantage, held on for a 27-21 victory.

In San Francisco, Jets head coach Joe Walton took off his familiar headset, turned his wrong-way baseball cap the right way, and directed his team past the 49ers 27-13.

"I decided to do it just before the game started," said Walton, who had worn the headset and backward cap ever since he began coaching in the NFL in 1969. "It gave me freedom to move around. I felt I had better concentration on what I wanted to do."

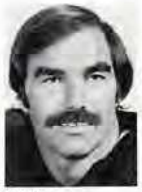
It took last-place Atlanta to avert a whitewash by the AFC East. The Falcons pinned a 24-13 loss on the Patriots, who contributed greatly to their own demise by losing four fumbles, one of which was returned for a touchdown by Falcons rookie linebacker John Rade.

Seattle helped tighten things in the AFC West by knocking off the Raiders for the second time in three weeks. Taking advantage of the Raiders' tumble was Denver, which moved into a first-place tie by edging Kansas City 27-24 behind Steve DeBerg's 350-yard passing performance against the NFL's number-one pass defense.

NEWSMAKERS

Andrews

Carmichael



Dieken

Raul Allegre of Baltimore kicked five field goals against Philadelphia, including a 30-yarder with 2:07 left, to defeat the Eagles 22-21. Philadelphia wide receiver **Harold Carmichael** scored his seventy-eighth career touchdown to break the Eagles' club record of 77 formerly held by Hall of Fame fullback **Steve Van Buren. Danny White** passed for 304 yards and five touchdowns—two to wide receiver **Tony Hill**—as Dallas walloped the Giants 38-20. Rookie **Boyce Green** rushed for 107 yards, including a 20-yard touchdown run in overtime, in Cleveland's 25-19 victory against Houston. In this game, tackle **Doug Dieken** caught a tackle-eligible pass from **Paul McDonald** to record his first pro touchdown. **William Andrews** became the forty-first player in NFL history to rush for more than 5,000 yards with a 125-yard performance in Atlanta's win over New England. **James Wilder** set an NFL record with 42 carries and gained 126 yards in Tampa Bay's loss to Pittsburgh. **Mark Moseley** missed four field goals against San Diego, but the Washington placekicker connected from 37 yards with nine seconds left to give the Redskins a 27-24 victory.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Buffalo	6	3	0	.667	173	182
Miami	6	3	0	.667	199	147
Baltimore	5	4	0	.556	166	197
New England	4	5	0	.444	199	189
N.Y. Jets	4	5	0	.444	194	185
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	7	2	0	.778	227	165
Cleveland	5	4	0	.556	181	206
Cincinnati	3	6	0	.333	170	181
Houston	0	9	0	.000	152	246
AFC West						
Denver	6	3	0	.667	153	147
L.A. Raiders	6	3	0	.667	242	204
Seattle	5	4	0	.556	219	206
Kansas City	4	5	0	.444	182	160
San Diego	3	6	0	.333	221	252
NFC East						
Dallas	8	1	0	.889	291	195
Washington	7	2	0	.778	292	211
Philadelphia	4	5	0	.444	138	167
St. Louis	3	5	1	.389	198	269
N.Y. Giants	2	6	1	.278	166	214
NFC Central						
Minnesota	6	3	0	.667	215	225
Detroit	4	5	0	.444	202	188
Green Bay	4	5	0	.444	240	267
Chicago	3	6	0	.333	170	198
Tampa Bay	0	9	0	.000	141	227
NFC West						
San Francisco	6	3	0	.667	261	184
L.A. Rams	5	4	0	.556	201	200
New Orleans	5	4	0	.556	203	203
Atlanta	4	5	0	.444	196	179

SCORES

American Football Conference

Cleveland 25, Houston 19, overtime
Denver 27, Kansas City 24
Seattle 34, Los Angeles Raiders 21

National Football Conference

Dallas 38, New York Giants 20
Detroit 38, Chicago 17
St. Louis 41, Minnesota 31

Interconference Games

Atlanta 24, New England 13
Baltimore 22, Philadelphia 21
Buffalo 27, New Orleans 21
Cincinnati 34, Green Bay 14
Miami 30, Los Angeles Rams 14
New York Jets 27, San Francisco 13
Pittsburgh 17, Tampa Bay 12
Washington 27, San Diego 24
AFC, 15 victories; NFC, 13 victories

► Clockwise from top: *The party was over in San Diego when Mark Moseley's 37-yard field goal with nine seconds left ruined the Chargers' comeback bid on Monday night. Rookie Eric Dickerson managed 101 yards rushing, and topped the 1,000 mark against Miami, but the Dolphins ruled 30-14. Cleveland offensive tackle Doug Dieken (73) celebrates his surprise touchdown catch; the Browns celebrated a victory over Houston. Solid running by Gerald Riggs (64 yards on 14 carries) helped Atlanta beat New England 24-13. Despite James Wilder's busy day at the office, Tampa Bay's 12-0 fourth-quarter lead dissipated into a 17-12 loss to Pittsburgh. The Jets kept a lid on San Francisco's Wendell Tyler (nine yards on eight carries) to help seal a 27-13 victory.*

71
SAN DIEGO
MILOT
57
THEISMA
7

42

50
73

A pro football legend passes on, a running back works overtime for Tampa Bay, and the NFC West remains snarled up top.

10

The NFL lost a patriarch this week. Chicago Bears owner George Halas, 88, died on Monday, October 31.

"The significant contributions George Halas made to professional football are countless and will be his memorial," said NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle. "Perhaps the greatest tribute to him is that our game has assumed many of the characteristics of George himself—wisdom and creativity, vitality and endurance, and that most singular trait of all, competitiveness."

The Bears, Halas's team for 63 years, were competitive against the Rams at Anaheim Stadium, but lost for the fourth time in five games.

Chicago got in line behind the growing group of Rams opponents to be done in by rookie Eric Dickerson, who carried the ball 34 times for 127 yards and two touchdowns in the 21-14 Los Angeles victory.

The Rams joined New Orleans—a 27-10 victor over Atlanta— in a three-way first-place tie in the NFC West, thanks to Miami's 20-17 win at San Francisco.

Even Dickerson, however, had to take a back seat this week to Tampa Bay's James Wilder, who ran wild against the Vikings to lead the Buccaneers to their first victory of the season.

Wilder, a fullback who was moved to tailback three weeks earlier, rushed 31 times for a team-record 219 yards, including a decisive 75-yard touchdown gallop in the third quarter.

"The more times you touch the ball," said Wilder, who set an NFL record with 42 carries in Week Nine, "the better chance you have to make something happen. It's something to celebrate about. It feels great when you win; you never get tired."

"He's a genetic mutant," said Tampa Bay quarterback Jack Thompson of the Buccaneers' overnight wunderkind. "When you have a body like James Wilder, it's no wonder you never get tired."

In Houston, the winless Oilers, with Oliver Luck relieving Gifford Nielsen at quarterback in the first half, and running back Earl Campbell pulled from the lineup in the second quarter, ran into a fully-toothed Bengals buzzsaw, which, with quarterback Ken Anderson back at the controls, split Houston apart 55-14.

Anderson, fresh from a three-week stay on the sidelines after sustaining a neck injury at the hands of Pittsburgh's Keith Gary in Week Six, said he made a pact with his offensive line before the game.

"I didn't have to worry about getting hurt today," said Anderson, who was 7 of 12 for 107 yards, "because no one came close to hitting me. I told the offensive line if they took care of me, I'd take care of them. We didn't get specific about what it was, but I'll have to think of something."

Denver never thought of a way to stop Seattle rookie running back Curt Warner, but after the Seahawks had beaten the Broncos 27-19, Seattle fans were thinking a little bit harder about the playoffs.

Warner, the AFC's leading rusher, gained 134 yards on 25 carries, and broke Sherman Smith's club record for most yards rushing in a season (805, set in 1978).

More important, the Seahawks moved into a second-place tie with the Broncos in the AFC, a game behind the Raiders.

In the aftermath of Pittsburgh's sixth consecutive victory, a 26-3 conquest of San Diego, the inevitable comparisons to the Steelers' great Super Bowl teams were again surfacing.

"You have to measure what is done for the whole season," said Pittsburgh head coach Chuck Noll. "We haven't finished the job yet."

The Steelers' defense did a job on San Diego, holding the Chargers to just 218 yards in total offense.

"I can't imagine we came away from here with just a field goal, considering the offensive personnel we have," said Chargers quarterback Ed Luther, who again stood in for injured Dan Fouts.

Fouts stood sadly on the sideline, still nursing his injured rotator cuff, watching the once mighty Chargers sink into deeper oblivion in the AFC West.

NEWSMAKERS

Betters

Lewis

White

Defensive end **Doug Betters** recovered two fumbles in the fourth quarter to preserve Miami's 20-17 victory at San Francisco. Quarterback **Danny White** (21 of 24 for 266 yards) threw an 18-yard touchdown pass to **Tony Hill** with 1:51 left to lift Dallas over Philadelphia 27-20. Washington's one-two punch of **Joe Washington** (99 yards rushing) and **John Riggins** (58 yards, two touchdowns) was too much for St. Louis; the Redskins won again, 45-7. Two interceptions by cornerback **Bruce McNorton** blunted comeback attempts by the Giants, and the Lions held on for a 15-9 victory. Veteran quarterback **Jim Plunkett** replaced **Marc Wilson** (separated shoulder) in the third quarter and led the Raiders past Kansas City 28-20. **Curtis Dickey's** second touchdown—on a deflected pass from **Mike Pagel**—gave the Colts a 17-14 win against the Jets. Free agent wide receiver **Clarence Weathers** caught touchdown passes of 40 and 58 yards as New England defeated Buffalo 21-7. Green Bay rookie cornerback **Tim Lewis,** making his first NFL start, intercepted two passes, both of which led to touchdowns, as the Packers nailed Cleveland 35-21.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Miami	7	3	0	.700	219	164
Baltimore	6	4	0	.600	183	211
Buffalo	6	4	0	.600	180	203
New England	5	5	0	.500	220	196
N.Y. Jets	4	6	0	.400	208	202
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	8	2	0	.800	253	168
Cleveland	5	5	0	.500	202	241
Cincinnati	4	6	0	.400	225	195
Houston	0	10	0	.000	166	301
AFC West						
L.A. Raiders	7	3	0	.700	270	224
Denver	6	4	0	.600	172	174
Seattle	6	4	0	.600	246	225
Kansas City	4	6	0	.400	202	188
San Diego	3	7	0	.300	224	278
NFC East						
Dallas	9	1	0	.900	318	215
Washington	8	2	0	.800	339	218
Philadelphia	4	6	0	.400	158	194
St. Louis	3	6	1	.350	205	314
N.Y. Giants	2	7	1	.250	175	229
NFC Central						
Minnesota	6	4	0	.600	227	242
Detroit	5	5	0	.500	217	197
Green Bay	5	5	0	.500	275	288
Chicago	3	7	0	.300	184	219
Tampa Bay	1	9	0	.100	158	239
NFC West						
L.A. Rams	6	4	0	.600	222	214
New Orleans	6	4	0	.600	230	213
San Francisco	6	4	0	.600	278	204
Atlanta	4	6	0	.400	206	206

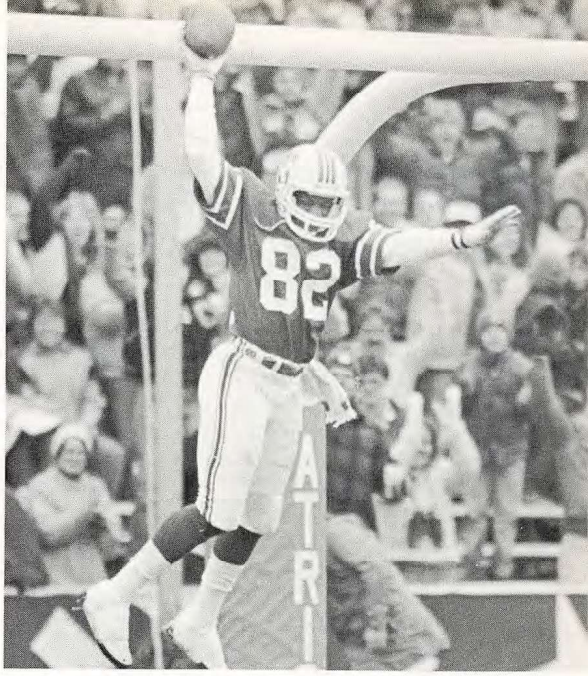
SCORES

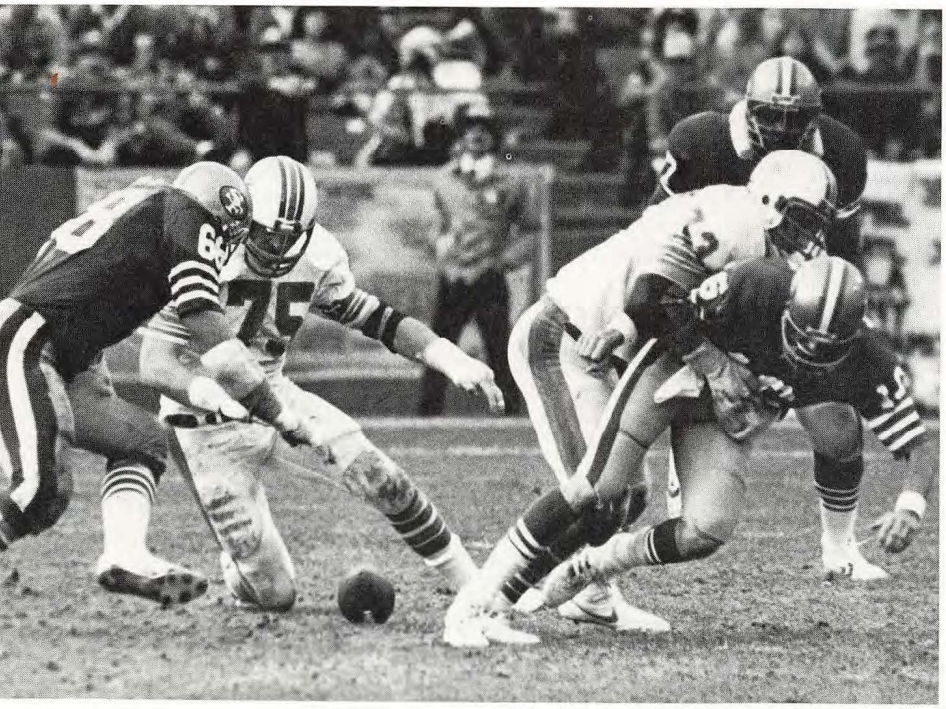
American Football Conference
Baltimore 17, New York Jets 14
Cincinnati 55, Houston 14
Los Angeles Raiders 28, Kansas City 20
New England 21, Buffalo 7
Pittsburgh 26, San Diego 3
Seattle 27, Denver 19

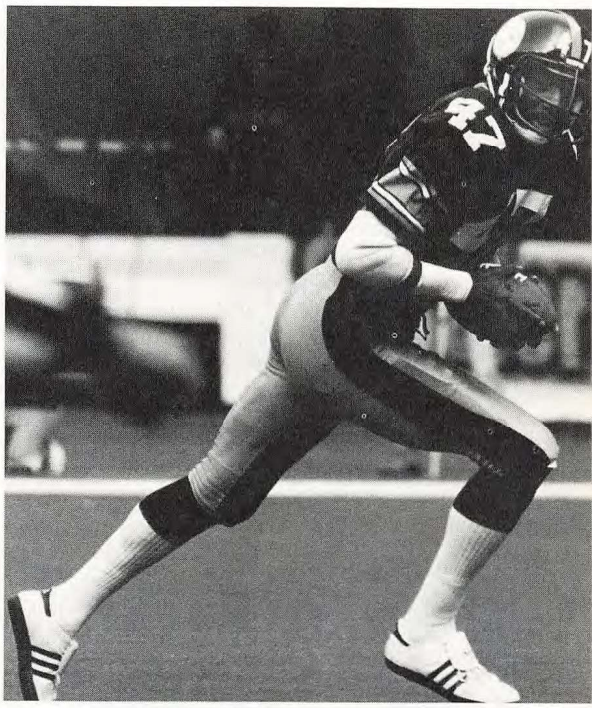
National Football Conference
Dallas 27, Philadelphia 20
Detroit 15, New York Giants 9
Los Angeles Rams 21, Chicago 14
New Orleans 27, Atlanta 10
Tampa Bay 17, Minnesota 12
Washington 45, St. Louis 7

Interconference Games
Green Bay 35, Cleveland 21
Miami 20, San Francisco 17
AFC, 16 victories; NFC, 14 victories

► Clockwise from top left: *At Anaheim Stadium, amazing Eric Dickerson and the Rams ran past Chicago 21-14. Free agent rookie Clarence Weathers does a high-flying act after his two touchdown catches led New England past Buffalo 21-7. Cornerback Mel Blount's six-yard touchdown return of a recovered fumble helped the Steelers deflate San Diego 26-3. Three scores by big Pete Johnson were part of an offensive assault by the Bengals, who dismantled Houston 55-14. Although the Packers defeated Cleveland 35-21, Mike Pruitt (5,507 career yards) moved into third place on the all-time Cleveland rushing list. With 1:20 left, Bob Baumhower (73) sacked Joe Montana. Doug Betters recovered Montana's fumble, and the Dolphins beat the 49ers 20-17.*







New England cools off a quarterback, San Diego cools off the Cowboys, and the Raiders keep on playing it cool.

11

As the NFL season heads into the backstretch, a quick scan through the divisional standings reveals the AFC East as the least predictable race.

This is especially true if you remember many people had once selected the Jets as the AFC's likeliest Super Bowl XVIII representative.

But the Super Bowl is a long way from the AFC East cellar, which is where the Jets remained confined after losing to Buffalo 24-17 at Shea Stadium this week.

The Bills, who moved into a first-place tie with Miami, won the game on a 33-yard touchdown pass from Joe Ferguson to Joe Cribbs with 22 seconds left.

New England slipped into a third-place tie with Baltimore—just one game behind the co-leaders—by knocking off Miami 17-6. The Patriots' defense cooled off rookie quarterback Dan Marino, who was a chilly 14 of 37 for 141 yards and an interception, while quarterback Steve Grogan, the AFC's third rated passer, and Mosi Tatupu (95 yards rushing) took care of the offense.

The Colts could have been part of a three-way first-place tie; instead they were Pittsburgh's latest victim, falling 24-13.

The NFC West continued to be a free-for-all, though New Orleans slipped badly at San Francisco to fall a game behind the division-leading 49ers and Rams.

Actually, the Saints were pushed rather than fell; the 49ers sacked New Orleans quarterback Dave Wilson nine times and limited the Saints' offense to a net total of 129 yards—58 in the first three quarters—en route to a 27-0 victory. Meanwhile, San Francisco quarterback Joe Montana was passing for 283 yards and three touchdowns.

"They played about as good football as I've ever seen," said Saints head coach Bum Phillips, who has seen a lot of football. "I'd like to think there was some way we could have won, but I don't know if anybody could have beat them today."

Eric Dickerson continued his assault on the single-season rushing records with 146 yards and two touchdowns on 21 carries against Atlanta. That gave him league-leading totals of 1,369 yards and 19 touchdowns—both new Rams records.

Vince Ferragamo also passed for 173 yards and two touchdowns and did not throw an interception for the second straight week.

Even reserve running back Barry Redden had a big game for the Rams, rushing 17 times for 110 yards and one touchdown.

All of which was more than the Falcons could handle on a rainy Monday night in Georgia, as they buckled 36-13.

On a muddy, sloppy field, San Diego built a 24-6 third-quarter lead against Dallas, and then *didn't* buckle under the Cowboys' expected furious rally. That rally consisted of a 37-yard field goal by Rafael Septien, and a pair of fourth-quarter touchdown passes by Danny White. But the Cowboys fell one point short, and lost 24-23.

The missing point was an errant conversion by Septien on the Cowboys' first touchdown. "My cleats got caught in the ground," said Septien. "I was so shocked I missed the ball. It was a freak thing."

So is a Dallas loss, but the Redskins pounced on the opportunity to move into a first-place NFC East tie with the Cowboys by dispatching the Giants 33-17.

The first-place Raiders gave themselves some breathing room in the AFC West by coming from behind to beat Denver 22-20 in a battle of ex-Stanford All-America quarterbacks: Denver rookie John Elway, starting for injured Steve DeBerg, and Los Angeles veteran Jim Plunkett.

This time the veteran was the winner, although Chris Bahr was the big hero by kicking a game-winning 39-yard field goal with four seconds left. Just prior to that, after Elway had put the Broncos on top 20-19 on a four-yard run with 58 seconds left, Plunkett and tight end Todd Christensen (eight catches for 114 yards) connected on four passes in a whirlwind 48-yard drive in the final 43 seconds to set up Bahr's kick.

"Since I was a kid," said Plunkett, "I was used to seeing [Ken] Stabler and [Daryle] Lamonica bringing them back time after time. You're expected to do it here."

NEWSMAKERS

Green

Luck

Nelson

Quarterback **Oliver Luck**, making his first NFL start, completed 18 of 26 passes for 189 yards and two touchdowns to lead Houston to a 27-17 victory against Detroit, ending the Oilers' 17-game losing streak. **Darrin Nelson** set a Minnesota single-game record for combined net yards gained with 119 yards rushing and 137 yards receiving, but the Vikings fell to Green Bay 29-21. **Fred Dean** had six quarterback sacks in the 49ers' shutout of New Orleans. **Walter Payton** rushed for 131 yards in Chicago's victory against Philadelphia. **Donnie Shell's** thirty-fifth career interception set up a game-clinching touchdown against Baltimore as the Steelers won their seventh straight. St. Louis quarterback **Neil Lomax** fired four touchdown passes to wide receiver **Roy Green** and the Cardinals edged Seattle 33-28. **Mike Pruitt** rushed for a pair of short touchdowns to complement a rugged defensive effort by the Browns, who shut out Tampa Bay 20-0. Defensive end **Mike Bell** sacked Cincinnati quarterback **Ken Anderson** three times in the Chiefs' 20-15 victory against the Bengals. Quarterback **Ed Luther** passed for 340 yards in the Chargers' win over Dallas.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Buffalo	7	4	0	.636	204	220
Miami	7	4	0	.636	225	181
Baltimore	6	5	0	.545	196	235
New England	6	5	0	.545	237	202
N.Y. Jets	4	7	0	.413	225	226
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	9	2	0	.818	277	181
Cleveland	6	5	0	.545	222	241
Cincinnati	4	7	0	.364	240	215
Houston	1	10	0	.091	193	318
AFC West						
L.A. Raiders	8	3	0	.727	292	244
Denver	6	5	0	.545	192	196
Seattle	6	5	0	.545	274	258
Kansas City	5	6	0	.455	222	203
San Diego	4	7	0	.364	248	301
NFC East						
Dallas	9	2	0	.818	341	239
Washington	9	2	0	.818	372	235
St. Louis	4	6	1	.410	238	342
Philadelphia	4	7	0	.364	172	211
N.Y. Giants	2	8	1	.228	192	262
NFC Central						
Green Bay	6	5	0	.545	304	309
Minnesota	6	5	0	.545	248	271
Detroit	5	6	0	.455	234	224
Chicago	4	7	0	.364	201	233
Tampa Bay	1	10	0	.091	158	259
NFC West						
L.A. Rams	7	4	0	.636	258	227
San Francisco	7	4	0	.636	305	204
New Orleans	6	5	0	.545	230	240
Atlanta	4	7	0	.400	219	242

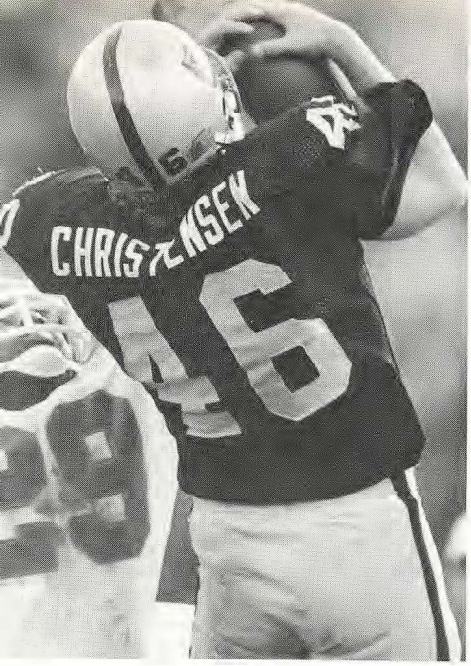
SCORES

American Football Conference
Buffalo 24, New York Jets 17
Kansas City 20, Cincinnati 15
Los Angeles Raiders 22, Denver 20
New England 17, Miami 6
Pittsburgh 24, Baltimore 13

National Football Conference
Chicago 17, Philadelphia 14
Green Bay 29, Minnesota 21
Los Angeles Rams 36, Atlanta 13
San Francisco 27, New Orleans 0
Washington 33, New York Giants 17

Interconference Games
Cleveland 20, Tampa Bay 0
Houston 27, Detroit 17
St. Louis 33, Seattle 28
San Diego 24, Dallas 23
AFC, 19 victories; NFC, 15 victories

► Clockwise from top left: *Tight end Todd Christensen was the man of the hour during a desperate fourth-quarter drive by the Raiders. His clutch catches led to a field goal by Chris Bahr, which beat Denver. Nose tackle Jerome Foster and the Oilers sacked Detroit to snap a 17-game losing streak. Fullback Mosi Tatupu had 95 of New England's 224 yards rushing as the Patriots defeated Miami 17-6. John Jefferson hauls in a five-yard touchdown pass in the Packers' 29-21 victory against Minnesota. Joe Montana was in a groove as the 49ers spun past the Saints 27-0. A 33-yard touchdown catch by Joe Cribbs with 22 seconds left gave Buffalo a 24-17 victory against the Jets. Battering ram John Riggins scored twice to help Washington defeat the Giants.*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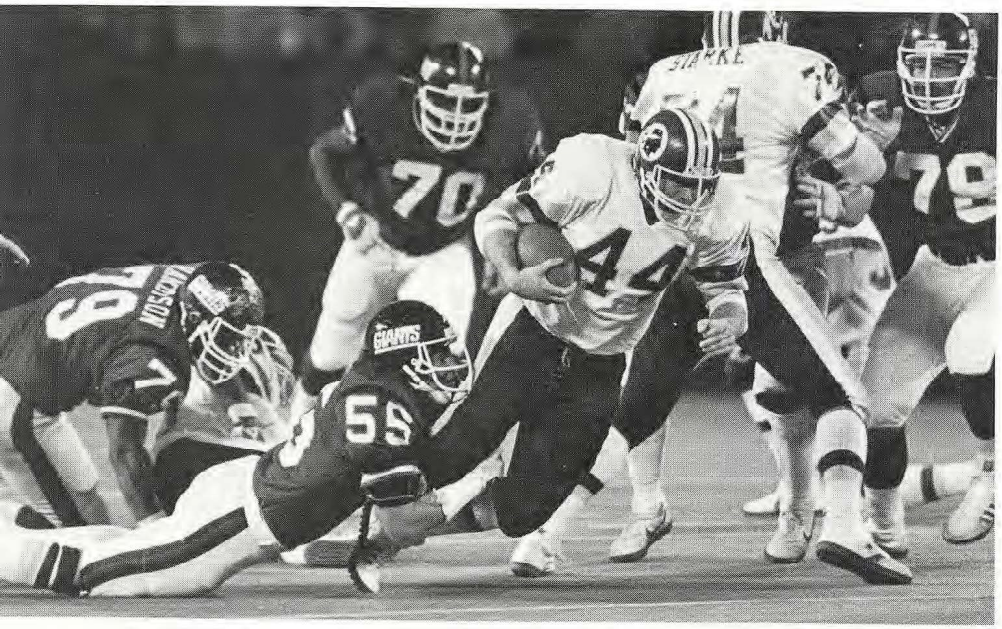
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55
GIANTS

JETS
48

Four teams break out the whitewash, the Falcons break out a miracle, and the Vikings break Pittsburgh's streak.

12

Parity took a vacation this week. Check out these scores:

Bears 27, Buccaneers 0
Browns 30, Patriots 0
Giants 23, Eagles 0
Dolphins 37, Colts 0

Those were just the shutouts. There were some other blowouts:

Bengals 38, Oilers 10
Cowboys 41, Chiefs 21
Redskins 42, Rams 20
Cardinals 44, Chargers 14

You don't really want to read too detailed a summary of those games, do you? How about just a few quick highlights?

The Cowboys, sparked by Tony Dorsett (108 yards rushing), clinched a spot in the playoffs for the ninth consecutive year.

The Redskins kept pace with Dallas by fattening up on the Rams, who were bullied all over the field (including Eric Dickerson, held to 37 yards rushing).

Although the Giants' offense scored a moderately impressive 23 points, their defense took no prisoners against Philadelphia, which crossed midfield just once in the entire game, and managed just 10 yards rushing (on nine carries), 69 yards passing, and four first downs.

St. Louis didn't look like a 5-6-1 team as quarterback Neil Lomax (12 of 20 for 247 yards and two touchdowns) and running back Ottis Anderson (113 yards and one touchdown rushing) had the Chargers with their hands over their heads.

Another team settling things early was Cincinnati, which scored on its first six possessions and handed the Oilers a punishing loss for the second time in three weeks.

A pair of big plays in the second quarter floored Baltimore. First Miami's deadly duo of quarterback Dan Marino and wide receiver Mark Duper combined for an 85-yard touchdown pass, and then Mark Clayton returned a punt 60 yards for a touchdown just 42 seconds later. The Colts never had a chance to get off the mat.

Walter Payton moved past O.J. Simpson on the all-time NFL rushing list with 106 yards, including two touchdowns, in Chicago's whitewash of Tampa Bay. As if that wasn't enough, Bears fullback Matt Suhey also chipped in with a career-high 112-yard rushing day and a touchdown.

Two interceptions by Tom Cousineau and one by Chip Banks helped the Browns keep New England off the scoreboard. The Patriots lost some ground in the AFC East race, and also lost quarterback Steve Grogan, who fractured his left leg.

The Browns, meanwhile, moved a step closer to first-place Pittsburgh, whose seven-game winning streak went down the drain in a 17-14 stumble against Minnesota.

Pittsburgh scored the game's first touchdown, which Vikings head coach Bud Grant would later conclude was the best thing that could have happened to his team.

"We're a hunt and peck offense," said Grant, whose attack was missing Ted Brown, Darrin Nelson, Sammy White, and Terry LeCount. "We're not like theirs, where they came right out on us in the first series running the ball and said, 'Hey, stop us.' Our offense just isn't that strong.

"But when you're in a fight and someone punches you in the nose first, you've got to fight back. And after that first series, our guys came back with their noses a little bloodied."

The 49ers had their noses bloodied on the last play of their 28-24 loss to Atlanta, when Falcons wide receiver Billy Johnson, who had slipped running his pattern, lunged to catch a twice-tipped Hail Mary pass from Steve Bartkowski on the San Francisco 7, and then reached the goal line for the winning touchdown.

"That play never works in practice," said Bartkowski. "It only works in games, somehow."

Detroit fell behind Green Bay 20-3 at halftime, but the Packers' offense collapsed in the second half without quarterback Lynn Dickey (concussion), and the Lions rallied to send the game into overtime.

Lions placekicker Eddie Murray missed his first field goal attempt in the overtime, but then nailed a 37-yard try with 6:30 left.

NEWSMAKERS

Bahr

Carson

Woolfolk

Freeman McNeil returned to the Jets' lineup and rushed for 86 yards against New Orleans. **Kirk Springs** returned a punt 76 yards for a touchdown late in the fourth quarter to give the Jets a 31-28 victory and keep the Saints winless on Monday night (in six games). **Chris Bahr's** 36-yard field goal on the game's final play rescued the Raiders, who had dominated Buffalo while building a 24-3 lead, but then yielded three fourth-quarter touchdowns. **Billy Sims** rushed for 189 yards in Detroit's overtime win against Green Bay. Cincinnati running back **Pete Johnson** also had a big day, rushing for 137 yards and two touchdowns in a victory against Houston. Kansas City wide receiver **Carlos Carson** sparkled in a losing effort against Dallas, catching seven passes for 135 yards, including touchdown receptions of 13 and 48 yards. **Butch Woolfolk** rushed for 159 yards and set a new NFL record with 43 carries as the Giants shut out Philadelphia. Rookie **Gary Kubiak** started for **John Elway** (flu) at quarterback, and threw a 78-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver **Steve Watson** to help lead the Broncos past Seattle 38-27.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Miami	8	4	0	.667	262	181
Buffalo	7	5	0	.583	228	247
Baltimore	6	6	0	.500	196	272
New England	6	6	0	.500	237	232
N.Y. Jets	5	7	0	.417	256	254
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	9	3	0	.750	291	198
Cleveland	7	5	0	.583	252	241
Cincinnati	5	7	0	.417	278	225
Houston	1	11	0	.083	203	356
AFC West						
L.A. Raiders	9	3	0	.750	319	268
Denver	7	5	0	.583	230	223
Seattle	6	6	0	.500	301	296
Kansas City	5	7	0	.417	243	244
San Diego	4	8	0	.333	262	345
NFC East						
Dallas	10	2	0	.833	382	260
Washington	10	2	0	.833	414	255
St. Louis	5	6	1	.459	282	356
Philadelphia	4	8	0	.333	172	234
N.Y. Giants	3	8	1	.292	215	262
NFC Central						
Minnesota	7	5	0	.583	265	285
Detroit	6	6	0	.500	257	244
Green Bay	6	6	0	.500	324	332
Chicago	5	7	0	.417	228	233
Tampa Bay	1	11	0	.091	158	286
NFC West						
L.A. Rams	7	5	0	.583	278	269
San Francisco	7	5	0	.583	329	232
New Orleans	6	6	0	.500	258	271
Atlanta	5	7	0	.417	247	266

SCORES

American Football Conference
Cincinnati 38, Houston 10
Cleveland 30, New England 0
Denver 38, Seattle 27
Los Angeles Raiders 27, Buffalo 24
Miami 37, Baltimore 0

National Football Conference
Atlanta 28, San Francisco 24
Chicago 27, Tampa Bay 0
Detroit 23, Green Bay 20, overtime
New York Giants 23, Philadelphia 0
Washington 42, Los Angeles Rams 20

Interconference Games
Dallas 41, Kansas City 21
Minnesota 17, Pittsburgh 14
New York Jets 31, New Orleans 28
St. Louis 44, San Diego 14

AFC, 20 victories; NFC, 18 victories

► Clockwise from top left: *Tony Dorsett (108 yards, two touchdowns rushing) and the Cowboys ran away from the Chiefs 41-21. With escort from mountain movers such as guard Homer Elias (61), Billy Sims rushed for 189 yards to help Detroit defeat Green Bay 23-20 in overtime. Chris Bahr's 36-yard field goal on the game's final play ruined Buffalo's gallant comeback and gave the Raiders a 27-24 win. Quarterback Cliff Stoudt, who was sacked five times in the Steelers' 17-14 loss to Minnesota, is wrapped up by defensive end Doug Martin. John Riggins scored three touchdowns as Washington walloped the Rams 42-20. A pair of interceptions by linebacker Tom Cousineau helped Cleveland blank New England 30-0.*

Holiday home cooking serves exactly half of the NFL teams well—and leaves 14 with indigestion.

13

There's nothing quite the same as being home for Thanksgiving weekend. You can confirm that with any of the NFL's 28 teams—the 14 teams that won at home during the holiday weekend, and the 14 road teams that lost.

Before most people around the country began carving their turkeys, the Lions were carving up the Steelers. Detroit marched 83 yards with the opening kickoff and scored on a two-yard run by Billy Sims (106 yards rushing). For quarterback Cliff Stoudt (four interceptions) and the Steelers, it went even further downhill, as Detroit poured it on for a 45-3 victory.

"As I was walking back in here [the locker room]," said Pittsburgh head coach Chuck Noll, "I mulled over what the turning point of the game was. I decided it was the opening kickoff."

Dallas didn't begin as quickly as Detroit in the other Thanksgiving day game. But the Cowboys usually don't set the early pace. They spotted the Cardinals a seven-point lead (on a 71-yard touchdown pass from Neil Lomax to Roy Green) and then systematically took the game over, winning 35-17.

In a Sunday NFC East confrontation, Washington had its hands full with Philadelphia, especially Eagles quarterback Ron Jaworski, who fired two touchdown passes to Mike Quick and one to Hubie Oliver.

But Joe Theismann got two of those back with scoring passes to Art Monk and Charlie Brown. John Riggins scored twice (to set an NFL record of 21 rushing touchdowns in a season), and the Redskins clinched a playoff berth with a 28-24 victory.

Seattle and Kansas City had people scouring through the record books after their game at the Kingdome, which produced a combined total of 99 points, and a victory for the Seahawks. (It turned out to be third-highest scoring game ever—the record came in Washington's 72-41 victory against the Giants in 1966.)

Scintillating Curt Warner rushed for a club-record 207 yards and three touchdowns on 32 carries for Seattle, which won 51-48 on Norm Johnson's 42-yard field goal at 1:46 of overtime. (Johnson had forced the overtime with another 42-yard field goal with just two seconds left in regulation.)

The Seahawks moved into a second-place tie with Denver—a 31-7 loser to San Diego—in the AFC West. But they gained no ground on the Raiders, who had little trouble in a 27-12 victory against the Giants.

Rams quarterback Vince Ferragamo's three touchdown passes and a typical performance by Eric Dickerson (125 yards rushing) spelled a 41-17 defeat for Buffalo. The Rams also intercepted five passes, and regained a one-game lead in the NFC West.

Los Angeles got help from Chicago, which knocked the 49ers' into second place with a 13-3 victory—the Bears' third straight.

Chicago quarterback Jim McMahon led all rushers with 74 yards on nine carries, and also threw a 49-yard touchdown pass to rookie Dennis McKinnon.

The Bears crept into a third-place tie in the NFC Central with Green Bay, which squandered a 21-0 lead and wound up being victimized by two touchdowns on interception returns by cornerback Kenny Johnson—the second coming 2:13 into overtime to give the Falcons a 47-41 victory.

"I was wondering when something like this was going to happen," said Johnson, who had gone without an interception in the first 12 weeks of the season.

Cleveland's Brian Sipe bewildered the Colts with 313 yards passing and three touchdowns, and the Browns moved another step closer to the Steelers.

The Jets rediscovered their passing game in a 26-3 win against New England and moved to within a game of .500. Quarterback Richard Todd passed for 305 yards and hooked up with wide receiver Wesley Walker on scoring passes of 64 and 8 yards. New York also found an antidote for Tony Collins, who burned the Jets for 212 yards rushing in their first meeting, but was held to just 22 yards on 18 carries this time.

And in Miami, the Dolphins helped head coach Don Shula celebrate his new contract with a 38-14 decision over Cincinnati.

NEWSMAKERS

Gastineau

Singletary

Thompson

Chicago linebacker **Mike Singletary** had 12 solo tackles, intercepted a pass, and recovered a fumble in the Bears' 13-3 victory over San Francisco. San Diego quarterback **Dan Fouts**, making his first appearance since Week Seven, completed 24 of 33 passes for 299 yards and two touchdowns to lead San Diego to a 31-7 win against Denver. Defensive tackle **Randy White** had two of Dallas's seven sacks in the Cowboys' victory over the Cardinals. Tackle **Bruce Davis** played a key role in quarterback **Jim Plunkett's** superb pass protection as the Raiders defeated the Giants 27-12. Cornerback **Eric Harris** and safety **Johnnie Johnson** each intercepted two passes to help the Rams overwhelm Buffalo 41-17. So did rookie cornerback **Danny Walters**, who also stole a pair in San Diego's big win. Quarterback **Jack Thompson's** four touchdown passes led Tampa Bay to a 33-24 victory over Houston. Goal-line specialist **Wayne Wilson** plunged for touchdown runs of one and two yards as New Orleans edged Minnesota 17-16. **Mark Gastineau** sacked rookie quarterback **Tony Eason** three times in the Jets' sacking of the Patriots.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Miami	9	4	0	.692	300	195
Buffalo	7	6	0	.538	245	288
Baltimore	6	7	0	.462	219	313
New England	6	7	0	.462	240	258
N.Y. Jets	6	7	0	.462	282	257
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	9	4	0	.692	294	243
Cleveland	8	5	0	.615	293	264
Cincinnati	5	8	0	.385	292	263
Houston	1	12	0	.077	227	389
AFC West						
L.A. Raiders	10	3	0	.769	346	280
Denver	7	6	0	.538	237	254
Seattle	7	6	0	.538	352	344
Kansas City	5	8	0	.385	291	295
San Diego	5	8	0	.385	293	352
NFC East						
Dallas	11	2	0	.846	417	277
Washington	11	2	0	.846	442	279
St. Louis	5	7	1	.423	299	391
Philadelphia	4	9	0	.308	196	262
N.Y. Giants	3	9	1	.269	227	289
NFC Central						
Detroit	7	6	0	.538	302	247
Minnesota	7	6	0	.538	281	302
Chicago	6	7	0	.462	241	236
Green Bay	6	7	0	.462	365	379
Tampa Bay	2	11	0	.154	191	310
NFC West						
L.A. Rams	8	5	0	.615	319	286
New Orleans	7	6	0	.538	275	287
San Francisco	7	6	0	.538	332	245
Atlanta	6	7	0	.462	294	307

SCORES

American Football Conference

Cleveland 41, Baltimore 23
Miami 38, Cincinnati 14
New York Jets 26, New England 3
San Diego 31, Denver 7
Seattle 51, Kansas City 48, overtime

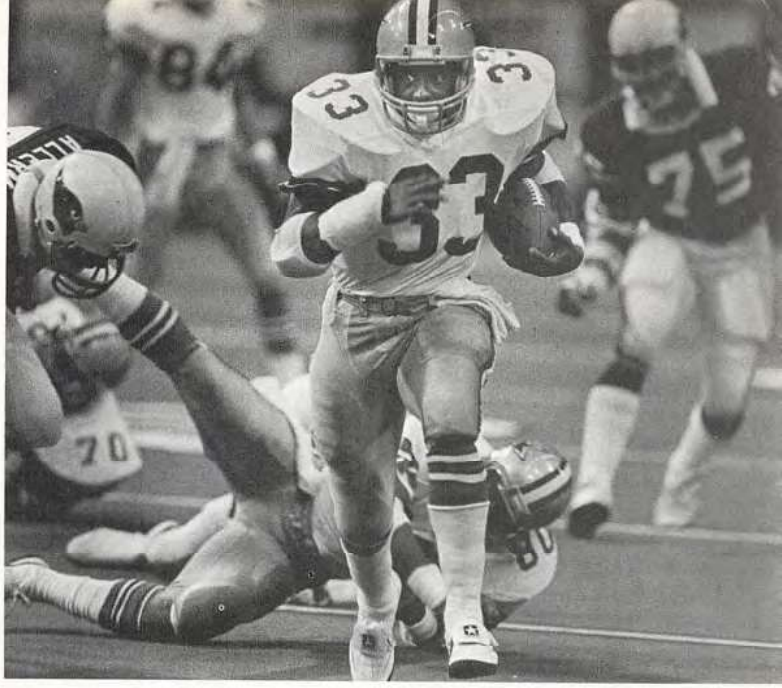
National Football Conference

Atlanta 47, Green Bay 41, overtime
Chicago 13, San Francisco 3
Dallas 35, St. Louis 17
New Orleans 17, Minnesota 16
Washington 28, Philadelphia 24

Interconference Games

Detroit 45, Pittsburgh 3
Los Angeles Raiders 27, New York Giants 12
Los Angeles Rams 41, Buffalo 17
Tampa Bay 33, Houston 24
AFC, 21 victories; NFC, 21 victories

►Clockwise from top left: *Joe Ferguson passed for 233 yards against the Rams to become the twentieth NFL quarterback to top the 25,000-yard mark. But five interceptions and the Bills' 41-17 loss marred his day. Tony Dorsett breaks away for a 55-yard touchdown in Dallas's 35-17 win against St. Louis. Washington defensive end Todd Liebenstein engulfs Eagles quarterback Ron Jaworski; the Redskins won 28-24. Marcus Allen cuts loose on an 11-yard touchdown run in the Raiders' 27-12 win against the Giants. Two of Miami's Killer Bees—Doug Betters (75) and Bob Baumhower (73)—team up for a twin stinging. That's Cincinnati's Pete Johnson, held to just 44 yards by the victorious Dolphins, being stung.*



The Dolphins get a scare and the AFC East title, a Samoan goes snow shoein', and Detroit gets on top.

14

It's time for the microscopes. With 14 weeks of the NFL season completed, and 19 teams still contending for a late January trip to Tampa, every game—and nearly every play—now becomes magnified.

Joining Dallas and Washington in the Clinch Club this week were Miami, which won the AFC East title by defeating Houston 24-17, and the Los Angeles Raiders, who crushed San Diego 42-10 to win the AFC West crown.

The Dolphins ran into some serious trouble at the Astrodome, falling behind the Oilers 17-7 in the third quarter.

But they drew even early in the fourth period, and then put together an eventful 82-yard drive that included (1) three fumbles—all recovered by Miami; (2) an injury to quarterback Dan Marino; (3) Don Strock's first appearance of the season in relief of Marino; and (4) a five-yard touchdown run by Tony Nathan for the winning points.

Second-place Buffalo, along with the AFC East's third-place co-tenants, New England and the New York Jets, all won to keep wild card hopes alive.

Despite a career-high 185-yard rushing performance by Joe Cribbs, Buffalo needed a 22-yard touchdown on an interception return by safety Mike Kennedy to complete a 14-9 victory over the Chiefs.

A dominating defensive performance, including important interceptions by linebackers Lance Mehl and Bob Crable and some successful transactions by Sack Exchange account executives Joe Klecko and Mark Gastineau, punctuated the Jets' 10-6 win at Baltimore.

The Patriots emerged 7-0 winners from a battle against both New Orleans and the elements at Foxboro, where there was snow, sleet, and freezing rain.

New England's Ricky Smith returned the opening kickoff 53 yards to the Saints' 36, and nine plays later Tony Collins ran three yards for the game's only touchdown.

"I had some debate over whether to receive or kick off at the start of the game," said New England head coach Ron Meyer later. "A good part of your game plan is scrapped in weather like this. You go back to the early 1940s, use a basic game plan, and you have to play defense."

"I never played in the snow until I got here," said Samoan native Mosi Tatupu, who survived the conditions well enough to rush for a career-high 128 yards. "But I guess its the size Triple-E feet. I've got fat feet, and I get good traction."

New Orleans safety Johnnie Poe endorsed Tatupu's theory. "It was like we were on ice skates, and he had snow shoes on."

After springing to a 10-0 lead against the Raiders at San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium, the Chargers began playing as if they were wearing skis. They were pounded by an unanswered 42-point deluge, beginning with a 43-yard touchdown pass in the second quarter from running back Marcus Allen to tight end Todd Christensen on an option play.

A 27-6 victory over Cleveland by Denver, which received a major league performance from rookie quarterback John Elway, combined with Seattle's 35-10 loss to Dallas, improved the Broncos' wild card odds.

The Cowboys, tuning up for their impending showdown with Washington, corraled Curt Warner (22 yards on 12 carries) and sacked quarterback Dave Krieg eight times—with Randy White (3½) leading the assault.

Detroit took command in the NFC Central by whipping Minnesota 13-2, while Green Bay, caught in a tooth-and-nail struggle with Chicago, needed Jan Stenerud's 19-yard field goal as time expired for a 31-28 win.

The pendulum swung again in the curious NFC West, and this week it was the Rams' turn to land in the pit. They lost to the Eagles 13-9, while the 49ers ground out a 35-21 win against Tampa Bay, which again created a tie at the top of the standings.

With the Eagles trailing 9-6 and only 28 seconds remaining, Ron Jaworski zipped a mini- (29 yards) Hail Mary touchdown pass to Tony Woodruff to finish the Rams.

"Before the play," said Jaworski, "I looked at coach [Marion] Campbell on the sideline and said, 'Hey, we're four-and-nine. Let's play to win and not to tie.' "

NEWSMAKERS

Christensen

Ellis

Moseley

Tight end **Todd Christensen** caught eight passes for 140 yards and three touchdowns in the Raiders' romp at San Diego. In Washington's 37-21 win over Atlanta, **Mark Moseley** set a new NFL (non-touchdown) scoring record for a season (147). **Gerry Ellis** rushed 18 times for 141 yards to help Green Bay defeat Chicago 31-28. **Pete Johnson** gained 126 yards rushing and scored twice as Cincinnati handed Pittsburgh its third straight loss, 23-10. Houston's **Earl Campbell** went over the 1,000-yard rushing mark for the fifth time in his six-year career in the Oilers' loss to Miami. Rookie cornerback **Lionel Washington** had two interceptions in the Cardinals' 10-6 victory against the Giants. New York's **Ali Haji-Sheikh's** twenty-sixth field goal of the season broke **Pete Gogolak's** club record. (An all-time NFL high 51,589 no-shows at cold, rainy Giants Stadium also made news.) Tampa Bay wide receiver **Kevin House** caught six passes for 156 yards, including a 74-yard touchdown bomb, in the Buccaneers' loss at San Francisco. Running backs **Wendell Tyler** (102 yards rushing) and **Roger Craig** (71 yards) tore up Tampa Bay in the 49ers' 35-21 victory.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Miami	10	4	0	.714	324	212
Buffalo	8	6	0	.571	259	297
New England	7	7	0	.500	247	258
N.Y. Jets	7	7	0	.500	292	263
Baltimore	6	8	0	.429	225	323
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	9	5	0	.643	304	266
Cleveland	8	6	0	.571	299	291
Cincinnati	6	8	0	.429	315	273
Houston	1	13	0	.071	244	414
AFC West						
L.A. Raiders	11	3	0	.786	388	290
Denver	8	6	0	.571	264	260
Seattle	7	7	0	.500	362	379
Kansas City	5	9	0	.357	300	309
San Diego	5	9	0	.357	303	394
NFC East						
Dallas	12	2	0	.857	452	287
Washington	12	2	0	.857	479	300
St. Louis	6	7	1	.464	309	397
Philadelphia	5	9	0	.357	209	271
N.Y. Giants	3	10	1	.250	233	299
NFC Central						
Detroit	8	6	0	.571	315	249
Green Bay	7	7	0	.500	396	407
Minnesota	7	7	0	.500	283	315
Chicago	6	8	0	.429	269	267
Tampa Bay	2	12	0	.143	212	345
NFC West						
L.A. Rams	8	6	0	.571	328	299
San Francisco	8	6	0	.571	367	266
New Orleans	7	7	0	.500	275	294
Atlanta	6	8	0	.429	315	344

SCORES

American Football Conference
Buffalo 14, Kansas City 9
Cincinnati 23, Pittsburgh 10
Denver 27, Cleveland 6
Los Angeles Raiders 42, San Diego 10
Miami 24, Houston 17
New York Jets 10, Baltimore 6

National Football Conference
Detroit 13, Minnesota 2
Green Bay 31, Chicago 28
Philadelphia 13, Los Angeles Rams 9
St. Louis 10, New York Giants 6
San Francisco 35, Tampa Bay 21
Washington 37, Atlanta 21

Interconference Games
Dallas 35, Seattle 10
New England 7, New Orleans 0

AFC, 22 victories; NFC, 22 victories

►Clockwise from top left: *Green Bay running back Gerry Ellis (141 yards rushing) scores on a 12-yard run in the Packers' 31-28 victory against Chicago. With a little help from his friends, Buffalo cornerback Charles Romes (26) stifles Kansas City running back Billy Jackson; the Bills stifled the Chiefs 14-9. Cincinnati wide receiver Steve Kreider makes a glove catch in the Bengals' 23-10 win against Pittsburgh. Three touchdown receptions by Todd Christensen helped the Raiders blast San Diego 42-10. Earl Campbell topped the 1,000-yard mark for the fifth time in his six-year career, but Houston fell to Miami 24-17. Rookie quarterback John Elway (16 of 24 for 284 yards and two touchdowns) led the Broncos past Cleveland 27-6.*

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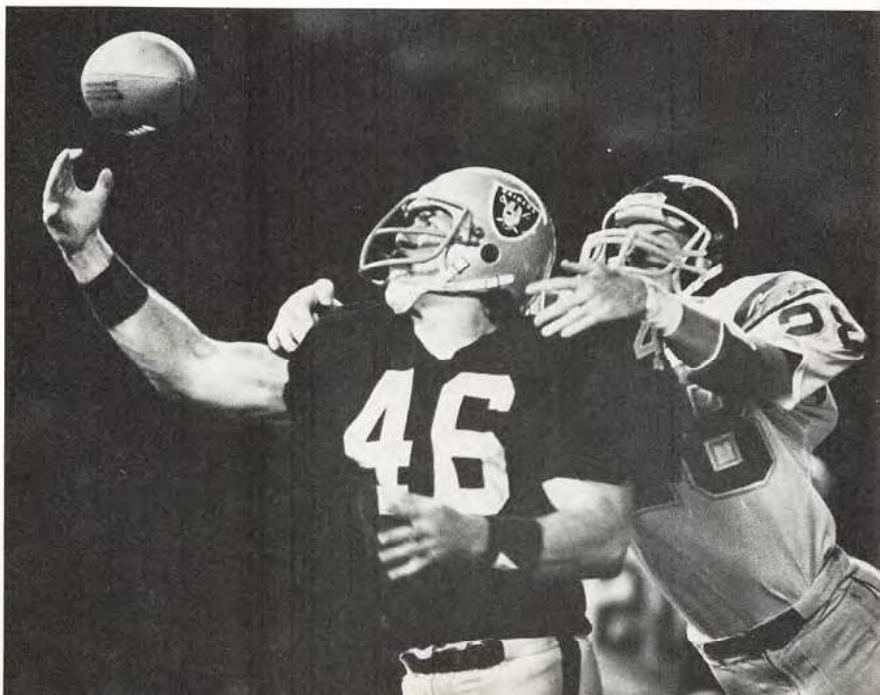
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The Redskins rule The Rematch, the Rams fumble and tumble, and a hero returns to stimulate the Steelers.

15

As always at this time of year, "if" suddenly has become the operative word in the NFL. As in "if the Rams lose to New Orleans..." or "if Tampa Bay can beat Detroit..." and so forth.

After all precincts had reported, and with just one week left in the season, all three of the NFC's divisional titles were still up for grabs, as well as two of the NFL's wild card berths and the home-field draws for the playoffs. That had just about everyone score watching and playing the "if" game.

The Redskins settled at least one question, for the time being anyway, by drilling Dallas 31-10 in their hotly-anticipated rumble at Texas Stadium.

People—if any still existed—who harbored doubts about how "real" the Redskins were, could doubt no longer. Washington laid a good old fashioned whuppin' on the Cowboys, untied the first-place knot in the NFC East, and, though the Redskins didn't actually clinch the NFC East title, left themselves in control of their own destiny (and playoff sites) the rest of the way.

(The Raiders, despite blowing a 24-7 lead and losing to St. Louis 34-24, are the only other NFL team in that same position.)

Red-hot Cincinnati received extra inspiration during the halftime retirement ceremonies for 15-year veteran cornerback Ken Riley, and then delayed any celebrations in Detroit by defeating the Lions 17-9.

Then on Monday night, with an open door to a first-place tie in the NFC Central, the Packers walked right in by outlasting Tampa Bay 12-9 in overtime.

Green Bay placekicker Jan Stenerud was the hero...many times over. First he tied George Blanda's career field goal record of 335 with a 35-yard kick in the first quarter. He broke Blanda's record with a 32-yarder in the third quarter. Then he sent the game into overtime on a 23-yard field goal with just 28 seconds left in regulation, and finally won it for the Packers with another 23-yard kick at 4:07 of the overtime.

The worm continued to turn quickly in the NFC West. While the Rams were fumbling away a 21-7 decision to New England, the 49ers dropped Buffalo 23-10 to reclaim first place.

Los Angeles was unable to compensate for seven turnovers (six fumbles, one interception) against the Patriots, and also lost quarterback Vince Ferragamo to a recurring hand injury in the third quarter.

New England, which pulled even with the second-place Bills in the AFC East, scored all three of its touchdowns on short runs by fullback Mosi Tatupu.

Buffalo was almost as generous as the Rams; the Bills turned the ball over five times. The most critical mistake was a fumble on the second-half kickoff that led the 49ers to a touchdown, a 13-10 lead, and the game's most crucial shift in momentum.

The NFC West's other contender, New Orleans, withstood a 14-point fourth-quarter rally by the Eagles, and pulled out a 20-17 victory on Morten Andersen's 50-yard field goal at 5:30 of overtime.

In the New York Jets' final game at Shea Stadium, a "nervous" Terry Bradshaw, who had been activated a week earlier after a season-long elbow injury, started for the first time in 1983 and threw a pair of first-half touchdown passes.

Bradshaw reinjured his elbow, however, and was replaced early in the second quarter by Cliff Stoudt. Pittsburgh's eventual 34-7 victory both eliminated the Jets from the playoff picture and, combined with Cleveland's 34-27 loss to Houston, clinched the AFC Central championship for the Steelers.

Rookie quarterback John Elway, facing the team that originally drafted him, threw three fourth-quarter touchdown passes to rally Denver to a 21-19 victory over Baltimore. The win put the Broncos in the playoffs for the first time since 1979.

Ironically, a missed blocking assignment by running back Gerald Willhite, who instead headed for the end zone and caught the winning touchdown pass with 44 seconds left, led to the victory.

"It was the greatest missed assignment I've ever seen," said Denver head coach Dan Reeves.

NEWSMAKERS

Butz

Dickey

Winslow

Defensive tackle **Dave Butz** led an inspired defensive effort that held Dallas to 33 yards rushing, and wide receiver **Art Monk** caught six passes for 119 yards and a touchdown in the Redskins' win at Dallas. **Matt Suhey** rushed for 101 yards and threw a 74-yard touchdown pass to **Walter Payton** as Chicago eliminated Minnesota from playoff contention with a 19-13 victory. Kansas City quarterback **Bill Kenney** passed for 411 yards and four touchdowns, but San Diego's **Rolf Benirschke** kicked a 28-yard field goal with two seconds left to defeat the Chiefs 41-38. San Diego's **Kellen Winslow** also caught a club-record 14 passes for 162 yards and three touchdowns. Three touchdowns and 153 yards rushing from **Mike Pruitt** weren't enough, though, for Cleveland, which lost to Houston 34-27. Backup quarterback **Don Strock**, playing for injured rookie **Dan Marino**, completed his first 11 passes of the season and threw two for touchdowns to lead the Dolphins past Atlanta 31-24. In the Packers' victory at Tampa Bay, **Lynn Dickey** threw for 278 yards and became the first NFC quarterback to pass for more than 4,000 yards in a season.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Miami	11	4	0	.733	355	236
Buffalo	8	7	0	.533	269	320
New England	8	7	0	.533	268	265
N.Y. Jets	7	8	0	.467	299	297
Baltimore	6	9	0	.400	244	344
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	10	5	0	.667	338	273
Cleveland	8	7	0	.533	326	325
Cincinnati	7	8	0	.467	332	282
Houston	2	13	0	.133	278	440
AFC West						
L.A. Raiders	11	4	0	.733	412	324
Denver	9	6	0	.600	285	279
Seattle	8	7	0	.533	379	391
San Diego	6	9	0	.400	344	432
Kansas City	5	10	0	.333	338	350
NFC East						
Washington	13	2	0	.867	510	310
Dallas	12	3	0	.800	462	318
St. Louis	7	7	1	.500	343	421
Philadelphia	5	10	0	.333	226	291
N.Y. Giants	3	11	1	.233	245	315
NFC Central						
Detroit	8	7	0	.533	324	266
Green Bay	8	7	0	.533	408	416
Chicago	7	8	0	.467	288	280
Minnesota	7	8	0	.467	296	334
Tampa Bay	2	13	0	.133	221	357
NFC West						
San Francisco	9	6	0	.600	390	276
L.A. Rams	8	7	0	.533	335	320
New Orleans	8	7	0	.533	295	311
Atlanta	6	9	0	.400	339	375

SCORES

American Football Conference

Denver 21, Baltimore 19
Houston 34, Cleveland 27
Pittsburgh 34, New York Jets 7
San Diego 41, Kansas City 38

National Football Conference

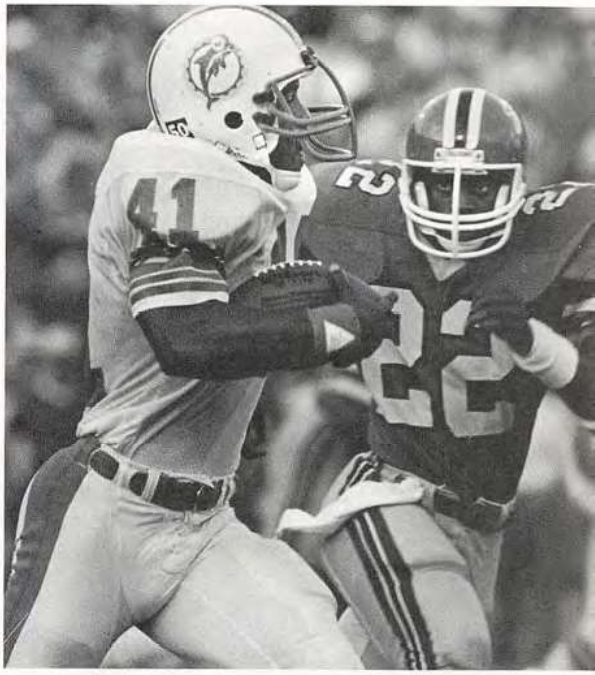
Chicago 19, Minnesota 13
Green Bay 12, Tampa Bay 9, overtime
New Orleans 20, Philadelphia 17, overtime
Washington 31, Dallas 10

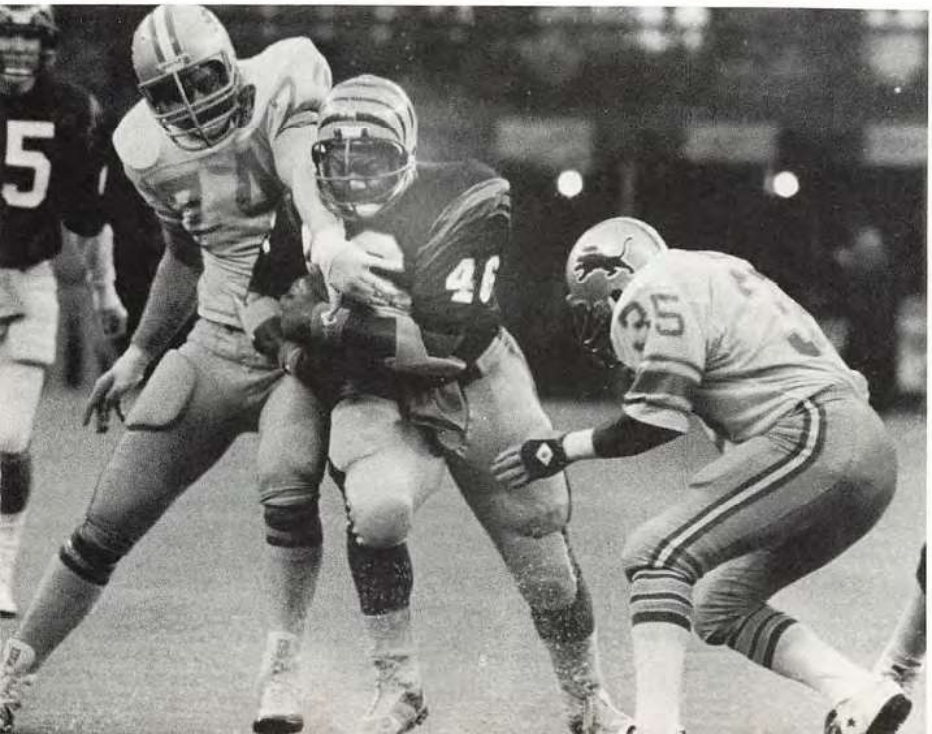
Interconference Games

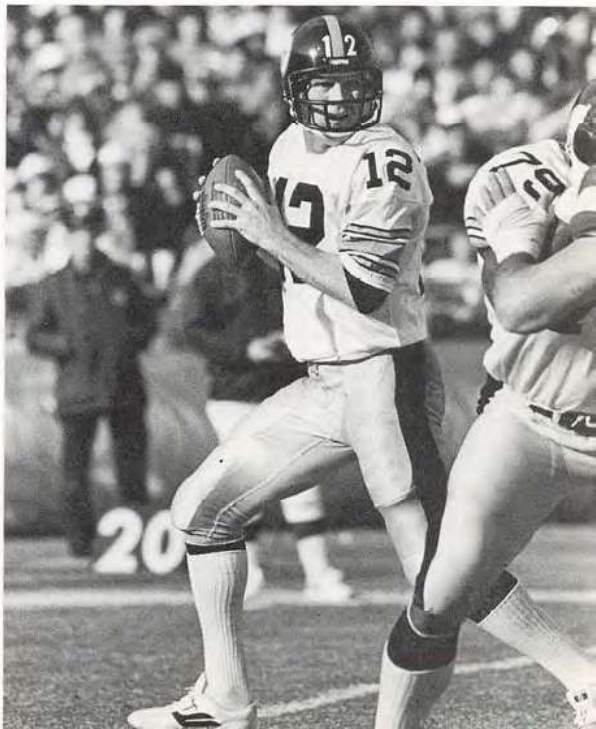
Cincinnati 17, Detroit 9
Miami 31, Atlanta 24
New England 21, Los Angeles Rams 7
St. Louis 34, Los Angeles Raiders 24
San Francisco 23, Buffalo 10
Seattle 17, New York Giants 12

AFC, 26 victories; NFC, 24 victories

►Clockwise from top left: *Despite a 100-yard rushing game by Joe Cribbs, the Bills lost 23-10 to the 49ers. A 21-yard touchdown catch by Wayne Wilson got New Orleans started toward a 20-17 victory at Philadelphia. Miami's Fulton Walker returns a kickoff 74 yards against Atlanta; the Dolphins turned back the Falcons 31-24. Terry Bradshaw returned (briefly) to action to help Pittsburgh defeat the Jets 34-7. At damp Riverfront Stadium, Pete Johnson (118 yards rushing, two touchdowns) and the Bengals put a damper on Detroit's three-game winning streak with a 17-9 victory. Wide receiver Tim Smith caught seven passes for 150 yards and two touchdowns—including the game-winner—as Houston stunned Cleveland 34-27.*







The 49ers and Lions are crowned, the Rams take a playoff march in New Orleans, and Seattle settles the AFC picture.

16

"It ain't over 'till the Fat Man spits."

That's what the banner in the Louisiana Superdome said. And when New Orleans, leading 24-23 against the Rams, got the ball on the Los Angeles 39 with just 2:48 left, it looked like it *was* over. Many of the 70,148 exuberant fans in the Superdome were poised to celebrate the Saints' first playoff berth in their 17-year history.

But the fat man didn't spit.

The Rams' defense held, and New Orleans punted with just over a minute to go. Then, beginning on his own 20, Los Angeles quarterback Vince Ferragamo whooshed the Rams down to the New Orleans 25-yard line, completing six of seven passes on the whirlwind drive, and leaving the clock with six seconds left.

In came placekicker Mike Lansford, a recent reclamation from the injured reserve list, who barefooted the ball from 42 yards out over the crossbar, just a few tantalizing centimeters inside the left upright.

"They don't give you extra points for putting it down the middle," Lansford said.

So the Rams had a 26-24 victory, a playoff berth (thanks also to Green Bay's 23-21 loss at Chicago), and the last spit.

The Rams had to wait a day, however, to learn their exact playoff fate, which turned out to be a wild card berth when San Francisco dumped Dallas 42-17 on Monday night to win the NFC West title.

Dallas, already owning a playoff ticket, still appeared shellshocked from its traumatic loss to Washington a week earlier. The Cowboys committed five turnovers and were on the wrong end of the big plays all night, such as Dana McLemore's 55-yard punt return, Joe Montana's 77-yard touchdown pass to Freddie Solomon, and Eric Wright's 48-yard interception return for a touchdown.

The rest of the meaningful action in the NFC took place in the Central Division.

There, at frigid Soldier Field, Walter Payton rushed for 148 yards, and Bob Thomas kicked a 22-yard field goal with 10 seconds left to finish the Packers' season.

(Also finished was Green Bay head coach Bart Starr, who was fired and replaced by Cincinnati head coach Forrest Gregg, a Hall of Fame tackle for the Packers for 14 years.)

Green Bay's loss opened the door for Detroit to win the NFC Central title—their first championship of any kind since 1957, when they won both the Western Division and the NFL championship.

The Lions, 23-20 victors, had to withstand a 373-yard, three-touchdown passing day by Tampa Bay quarterback Jack Thompson. But the Buccaneers again were betrayed by their kicking game (despite signing free agent Dave Warnke to replace slump-ridden Bill Capece in midweek): three field goals by Detroit's Eddie Murray were the difference.

The AFC's only remaining playoff berth was sewn up at the Kingdome, where Seattle defeated New England 24-6 to clinch the wild card berth and gain entry to the Super Bowl tournament for the first time ever.

The offensive heroes for Seattle—as usual—were rookie running back Curt Warner, who rushed for 116 yards (and finished as the AFC rushing king with 1,449 yards); quarterback Dave Krieg, who passed for 230 yards and two touchdowns; and wide receiver Steve Largent, who had seven receptions for 133 yards, including one of Krieg's touchdown throws.

Earlier, Cleveland had defeated AFC Central champion Pittsburgh 30-17 to finish with a 9-7 record and keep alive a faint chance to land a wild card spot. For that to have happened, though, the Browns needed losses by Buffalo, which did lose 31-14 to Atlanta, and by Seattle, whose subsequent victory snuffed out Cleveland's hopes.

Three teams not locked in do-or-die struggles for playoff positions were division champions Miami, Washington, and the Los Angeles Raiders, who all closed the regular season with victories. The Dolphins (34-14 over the Jets) and Raiders (30-14 over San Diego) won easily, though the Redskins were extended by the Giants, who built a 19-7 third-quarter lead against Washington before succumbing 31-22.

NEWSMAKERS

K. Anderson

Kenney

Kozlowski

Safety **Mike Kozlowski** returned interceptions 35 yards and 38 yards for touchdowns in a 61-second span to secure Miami's 34-14 win against the Jets. **Tony Galbreath** rushed for 87 yards and two touchdowns to lead Minnesota over Cincinnati 20-14. Giants rookie **Ali Haji-Sheikh** kicked five field goals in a 31-22 loss to Washington to set an NFL record with 35 field goals in a season. **William Andrews** rushed for 158 yards and three touchdowns in the Falcons' 31-14 win against Buffalo. He also had 49 receiving yards on seven catches to give him 2,176 yards rushing and receiving, making him only the second player (**O.J. Simpson** was the other) to go over 2,000 yards twice. Quarterback **Bill Kenney** passed for 161 yards to give him a season total of 4,348, and also threw two touchdown passes to lead Kansas City past Denver 48-17. **Kim Anderson's** 71-yard interception return for a touchdown was the big play in Baltimore's 20-10 victory against Houston. **Ottis Anderson** dashed for 156 yards and a touchdown as St. Louis finished with a winning record for the first time since 1978 by defeating Philadelphia 31-7.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Miami	12	4	0	.750	389	250
New England	8	8	0	.500	274	289
Buffalo	8	8	0	.500	283	351
Baltimore	7	9	0	.438	313	331
N.Y. Jets	7	9	0	.438	264	354
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	10	6	0	.625	355	303
Cleveland	9	7	0	.563	356	342
Cincinnati	7	9	0	.438	346	302
Houston	2	14	0	.125	288	460
AFC West						
L.A. Raiders	12	4	0	.750	442	338
Seattle	9	7	0	.563	403	397
Denver	9	7	0	.563	302	327
San Diego	6	10	0	.375	358	462
Kansas City	6	10	0	.375	386	367
NFC East						
Washington	14	2	0	.875	541	333
Dallas	12	4	0	.750	479	360
St. Louis	8	7	1	.532	374	428
Philadelphia	5	11	0	.313	233	322
N.Y. Giants	3	12	1	.219	267	347
NFC Central						
Detroit	9	7	0	.563	347	286
Green Bay	8	8	0	.500	429	439
Chicago	8	8	0	.500	311	301
Minnesota	8	8	0	.500	316	348
Tampa Bay	2	14	0	.125	241	380
NFC West						
San Francisco	10	6	0	.625	432	293
L.A. Rams	9	7	0	.563	361	344
New Orleans	8	8	0	.500	319	337
Atlanta	7	9	0	.438	370	389

SCORES

American Football Conference

Baltimore 20, Houston 10
Cleveland 30, Pittsburgh 17
Kansas City 48, Denver 17
Los Angeles Raiders 30, San Diego 14
Miami 34, New York Jets 14
Seattle 24, New England 6

National Football Conference

Chicago 23, Green Bay 21
Detroit 23, Tampa Bay 20
Los Angeles Rams 26, New Orleans 24
St. Louis 31, Philadelphia 7
San Francisco 42, Dallas 17
Washington 31, New York Giants 22

Interconference Games

Atlanta 31, Buffalo 14
Minnesota 20, Cincinnati 14

AFC, 26 victories; NFC, 26 victories

► Clockwise from top left: *Cleveland's Bobby Jones outpositions Pittsburgh safety Rick Woods for a reception; the Browns outpointed the Steelers 30-17. Quarterback Vince Ferragamo set up the Rams' 26-24 victory at New Orleans with a brilliant last-minute drive. Chicago's Bob Thomas (16) and Brian Baschnagel celebrate Thomas's last-second field goal that beat the Packers. Raiders quarterback Jim Plunkett passed for 322 yards in a 30-14 victory against San Diego. Dallas's Danny White halts Lawrence Pillers—who had just stolen White's pass—in the 49ers' 42-17 win. Veteran running back Cullen Bryant, in his first season with Seattle, has a hand on the ball, and in a 24-6 win against New England that put the Seahawks in the playoffs.*

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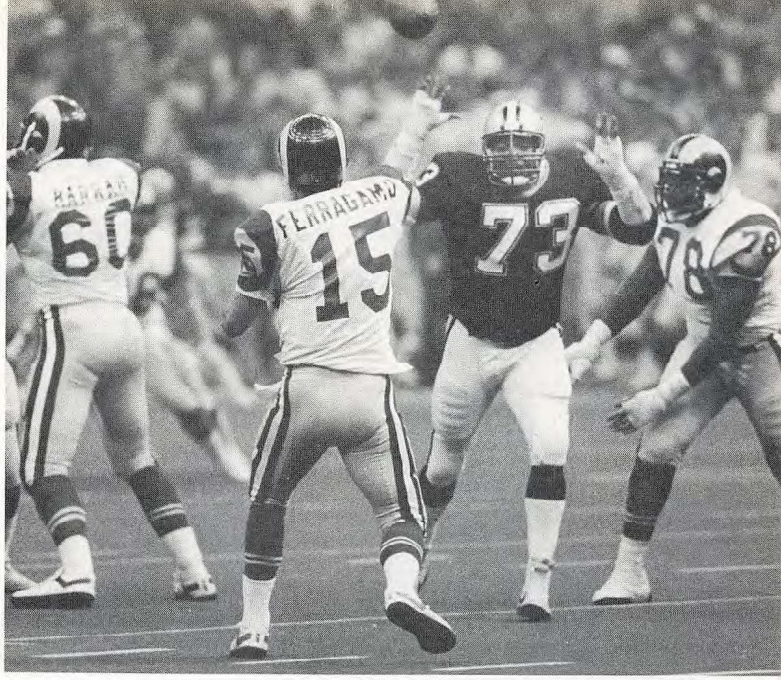
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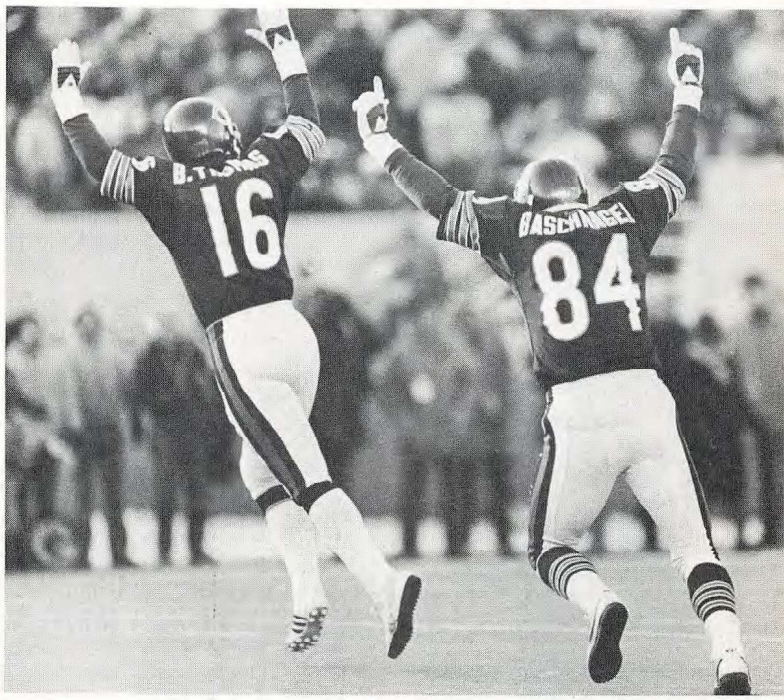
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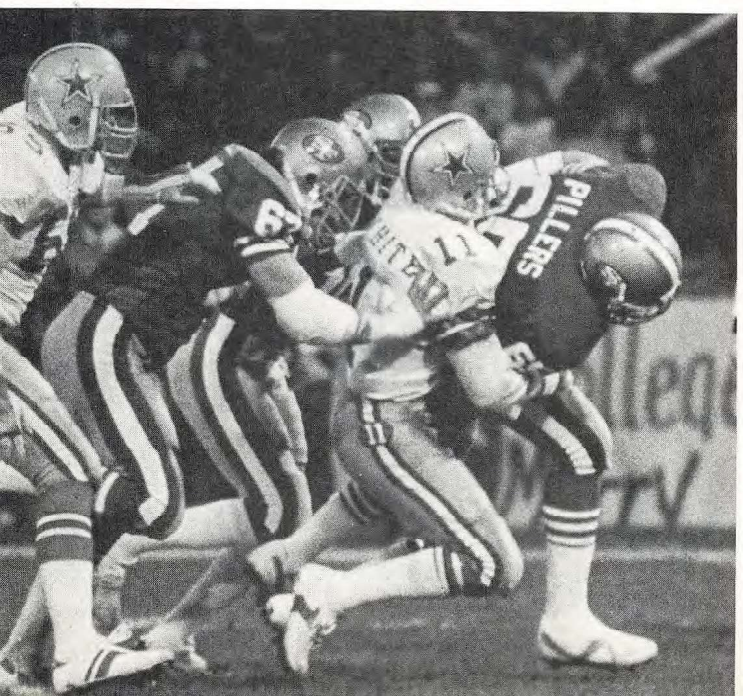
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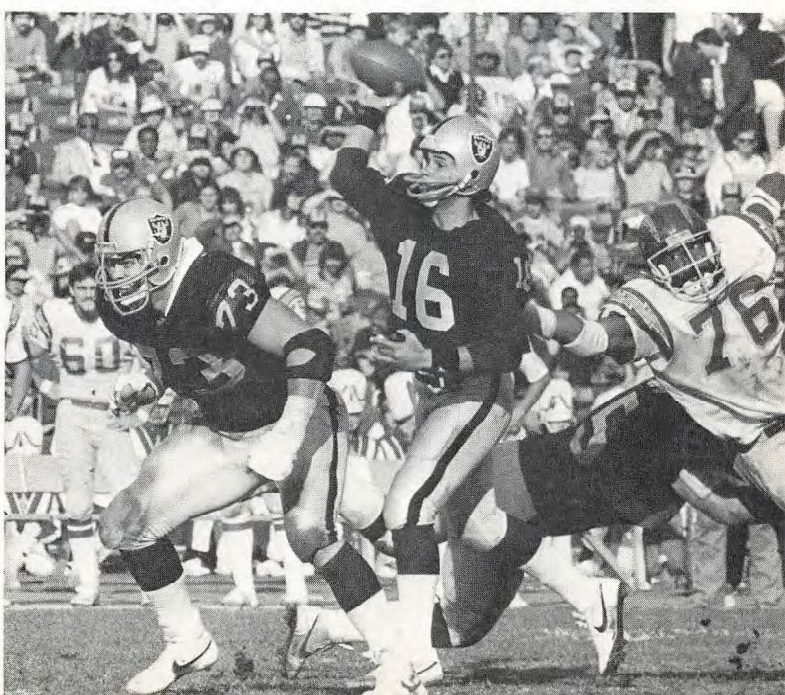
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Two wild card surprises: Seattle springs an unexpected strategy, and the Cowboys are sprung from the playoffs early.

17

SEATTLE 31, DENVER 7

This game figured to be a pretty even match. It was, for two quarters, with Seattle nudging ahead for a 10-7 halftime lead.

But an old coach showed a new trick in the second half, which turned the game into a 31-7 Seahawks romp.

The coach was normally conservative Chuck Knox—in his first year with Seattle, but no stranger to the playoffs. The trick, in this case, was a wide-open (for Knox, anyway) second-half offense that disoriented the Broncos, who had been lulled by the Seahawks' customary two tight end, give-the-ball-to-Curt-Warner attack in the first half.

"We had planned to mix it up in the second half," said Knox.

No one was ready to call it "Air Knox," but with the rushing of Warner (99 yards) keeping Denver off balance, quarterback Dave Krieg effected Knox's strategy flawlessly. He completed 12 of 13 passes for 200 yards and three touchdowns—one each to Steve Largent, Paul Johns, and Pete Metzelaars. Seattle's final touchdown, a two-yard run by David Hughes, was set up by a 41-yard pass to Johns.

"It's hard to beat anybody," said Denver head coach Dan Reeves, "when they execute the way Seattle did."

Denver	7	0	0	0	— 7
Seattle	7	3	7	14	—31

Sea —Largent 17 pass from Krieg (Johnson kick)
Den —Myles 13 pass from DeBerg (Karlis kick)
Sea —FG Johnson 37
Sea —Metzelaars 5 pass from Krieg (Johnson kick)
Sea —Johns 18 pass from Krieg (Johnson kick)
Sea —Hughes 2 run (Johnson kick)
Attendance—60,752

L.A. RAMS 24, DALLAS 17

Wait 'Til Next Year came early in Dallas.

After three straight seasons of coming so close to the Super Bowl (i.e., reaching, but losing, the NFC Championship Game), the Cowboys this time were evicted from the playoffs in the wild card round.

Serving the eviction notice were the surprising Los Angeles Rams, who played with more emotion, made fewer mistakes, and pinned a 24-17 defeat on the Cowboys at Texas Stadium.

After a punt-swapping first half that ended 7-7, Dallas took a brief 10-7 third-quarter lead on Rafael Septien's 41-yard field goal. But then the Cowboys began to self-destruct.

First, Gary Allen muffed a punt that Mike Wilcher recovered for the Rams at the Dallas 16. Presto—quarterback Vince Ferragamo (15 of 30 for 162 yards, three touchdowns, no interceptions) zipped a 16-yard touchdown pass to Preston Dennard.

Next, 10 plays after linebacker Jim Collins had intercepted Dallas quarterback Danny White, Ferragamo hit George Farmer with an eight-yard touchdown pass.

Then, after White again was intercepted—this time by Rams cornerback LeRoy Irvin, who returned it 94 yards, an NFC playoff record—Mike Lansford kicked a 20-yard field goal to make it 24-10.

White, who set a Dallas record by throwing 53 passes (but was intercepted three times) brought the Cowboys to within 7 points with a two-yard scoring pass to Doug Cosbie with 1:03 left.

But for the Cowboys, who rallied all year to win games in which they were behind, there just wasn't enough time—or enough anything—for more miracles.

"For the past three weeks, our passing game has been ninety percent on and ten percent off," said White, "but the ten percent killed us."

Los Angeles Rams	7	0	7	10	—24
Dallas	0	7	3	7	—17

LA —D. Hill 18 pass from Ferragamo (Lansford kick)
Dall—T. Hill 14 pass from D. White (Septien kick)
Dall—FG Septien 41
LA —Dennard 16 pass from Ferragamo (Lansford kick)
LA —Farmer 8 pass from Ferragamo (Lansford kick)
LA —FG Lansford 20
Dall—Cosbie 2 pass from D. White (Septien kick)
Attendance—43,521

Below, left: *Steve Largent's 17-yard touchdown catch in the first quarter foreshadowed Seattle's unexpected air strikes in the second half.* Right: *Wide receiver Preston Dennard regained the lead for the Rams by catching a 16-yard third-quarter touchdown pass from quarterback Vince Ferragamo.*

The Seahawks go singin' in the rain— and into the next round; the 49ers dodge a last-second bullet at Candlestick.

18

SEATTLE 27, MIAMI 20

It was cold and rainy at the Orange Bowl, but Miami's biggest chill came courtesy of Seattle, which stunned the Dolphins 27-20.

Miami was in control during the first half. Pro Bowl quarterback Dan Marino was 10 for 14 and threw two touchdown passes, including a spectacular one for 32 yards to Mark Duper; the Dolphins' defense threw a net over wide receiver Steve Largent, who was blanked in the half; and Miami led 13-7 at halftime. (Seattle's touchdown, a six-yard pass from quarterback Dave Krieg to Cullen Bryant, was really a special teams gift set up by Zach Dixon's 59-yard kickoff return.)

But midway through the third quarter rookie Curt Warner, who rushed for 113 yards, scored on a one-yard run to give the Seahawks a 14-13 lead. A field goal by Norm Johnson early in the fourth quarter padded Seattle's lead to 17-13.

Then Krieg blundered, throwing what he later termed a "dumb interception" into the hands of cornerback Gerald Small deep in Seattle territory. Woody Bennett's three-yard touchdown run three plays later pushed the Dolphins back into the lead 20-17.

That score lasted less than two minutes. After Krieg finally connected with Largent for the first time all day for gains of 16 (on a critical third-down play) and 40 yards, Warner's second touchdown—a two-yard run—put Seattle back on top 24-20 with 1:48 left.

Miami never got a chance to come back. Fulton Walker fumbled Johnson's kickoff, and then, after Johnson kicked a 37-yard field goal with 1:19 left to make it 27-20, Walker fumbled the *next* kickoff as well.

"I feel sick to my stomach," said Walker.

The Seahawks felt something else altogether.

Seattle	0	7	7	13	— 27
Miami	0	13	0	7	— 20

Mia — Johnson 19 pass from Marino (kick failed)
Sea — Bryant 6 pass from Krieg (Johnson kick)
Mia — Duper 32 pass from Marino (von Schamann kick)
Sea — Warner 1 run (Johnson kick)
Sea — FG Johnson 27
Mia — Bennett 3 run (von Schamann kick)
Sea — Warner 2 run (Johnson kick)
Sea — FG Johnson 37
Attendance—71,032

SAN FRANCISCO 24, DETROIT 23

There was the scoreboard. It said there were 11 seconds left. The Lions trailed 24-23.

There were the uprights, 43 yards away.

For one frozen moment, Eddie Murray had an opportunity to become either a hero, or the loneliest man in a Detroit uniform.

Kickers live for that moment.

"Everything was perfect," he said after the game, after his kick had sailed wide right, and the Lions had lost. "The placement, the footing, the line, the distance. The whole series [when Detroit was driving], I was hoping it would come down to me.

That Murray, who earlier had kicked a playoff-record 54-yard field goal, was in a position to win the game was a bit remarkable. The Lions had to overcome five interceptions by quarterback Gary Danielson.

Touchdown runs by Wendell Tyler and Roger Craig, and Ray Wersching's field goal had put the 49ers in front 17-9.

But Billy Sims (114 yards rushing) scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns, the second with 4:54 left for a 23-17 Detroit lead.

Joe Montana answered with a 14-yard scoring pass to wide receiver Freddie Solomon with 1:23 remaining.

Then Murray missed his chance for glory, and the 49ers won a date in Washington.

Detroit	3	6	0	14	— 23
San Francisco	7	7	3	7	— 24

Det — FG Murray 37
SF — Craig 1 run (Wersching kick)
SF — Tyler 2 run (Wersching kick)
Det — FG Murray 21
Det — FG Murray 54
SF — FG Wersching 19
Det — Sims 11 run (Murray kick)
Det — Sims 3 run (Murray kick)
SF — Solomon 14 pass from Montana (Wersching kick)
Attendance—60,970

Below, left: *Rookie running back Curt Warner darted for 113 yards and two touchdowns as Seattle finished Miami's season early.* Right: *Detroit kicker Eddie Murray watches as his try at a winning field goal with 11 seconds left goes wide right. The Lions fell 24-23 to San Francisco.*

Washington conducts a clinic in power and finesse, and the Raiders give a once-hot rivalry the cold shoulder.

WASHINGTON 51, L.A. RAMS 7

Depending on your allegiance, it was both the best of games and the worst of games.

At RFK Stadium the one hundred thirty-first consecutive sellout crowd of 55,363 saw the most lopsided Redskins' victory *and* the worst defeat in Rams' history all at once.

Afterward, since there was absolutely no doubt about how the game had been won, there seemed a more appropriate question: Where do these Redskins rank among the greatest NFL teams of all time?

The Hogs wiped out the Rams' defensive line; the "Diesel," John Riggins, motored for 119 yards and three touchdowns on the ground; and Joe Theismann was 18 of 23 for 302 yards and two touchdowns with no interceptions. Then there was the defense, which intercepted Rams quarterback Vince Ferragamo three times and held NFL rushing king Eric Dickerson to 16 yards on 10 carries.

Why so few carries for Dickerson? Because Washington scored on each of its first five possessions, and because it was 31-7 early in the second quarter. You don't run to play catch-up in the NFL, you pass.

Now, back to the original question.

"I sincerely think they are better than those [Super Bowl] Pittsburgh teams," said tight end Mike Barber, who opposed the Steelers with Houston in the 1970s.

"I'd compare them to the Steelers in the 1970s," agreed Jack Youngblood. "They've got a confidence about them. Certainly the Dolphins have to be right up there. Are they as good? Yeah, I think so."

L.A. Rams	0	7	0	0	— 7
Washington	17	21	6	7	— 51

Wash — Riggins 3 run (Moseley kick)
Wash — Monk 40 pass from Theismann (Moseley kick)
Wash — FG Moseley 42
Wash — Riggins 1 run (Moseley kick)
LA — Dennard 32 pass from Ferragamo (Lansford kick)
Wash — Monk 21 pass from Theismann (Moseley kick)
Wash — Riggins 1 run (Moseley kick)
Wash — FG Moseley 36
Wash — FG Moseley 41
Wash — Green 72 interception return (Moseley kick)
Attendance—55,363

L.A. RAIDERS 38, PITTSBURGH 10

One good word to describe the Raiders' 38-10 win against Pittsburgh is "spotless."

In front of an NFL playoff-record 90,334 onlookers at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (including injured Pittsburgh quarterback Terry Bradshaw), the Raiders lost no fumbles, threw no interceptions, were penalized just twice, and dominated the game.

Though the Steelers scored first, on a 17-yard first-quarter field goal, it turned into an emotional advantage for the Raiders.

Pittsburgh had driven 78 yards to the Raiders' 1, but on fourth and inches at the goal line, head coach Chuck Noll went for the field goal by Gary Anderson.

"When they decided to take the three," said Raiders head coach Tom Flores, "it kind of gave us a lift."

So did an 18-yard interception return for a touchdown by cornerback Lester Hayes less than three minutes later.

That made it 7-3, and the rout was on.

The Raiders' offense cooked all game long, with Marcus Allen cruising for 121 yards and two touchdowns on 13 carries and Jim Plunkett passing for 232 yards (he was 21 of 34 overall). Stoudt, meanwhile, never got much going against the Los Angeles defense. He was sacked five times and stared at shackled receivers throughout the afternoon.

Pittsburgh	3	0	7	0	— 10
L.A. Raiders	7	10	21	0	— 38

Pitt — FG Anderson 17
LA — Hayes 18 interception return (Bahr kick)
LA — Allen 4 run (Bahr kick)
LA — FG Bahr 45
LA — King 9 run (Bahr kick)
LA — Allen 49 run (Bahr kick)
Pitt — Stallworth 58 pass from Stoudt (Anderson kick)
LA — Hawkins 1 run (Bahr kick)
Attendance—90,334

Below, left: *Washington wide receiver Art Monk catches a 40-yard touchdown pass from Joe Theismann in full stride; the Redskins strode past the Rams 51-7.* Right: *It's off to the races for Marcus Allen, whose 49-yard touchdown sprint helped punctuate the Raiders' 38-10 victory against Pittsburgh.*

The Seahawks sing the black-and-blues after the Raiders sing a super rendition of "Let's Get Physical."

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L.A. RAIDERS 30, SEATTLE 14

It was so simple, you wonder why the Raiders didn't think of it earlier—in the regular season, for instance, when they lost twice to Seattle.

All you have to do to beat Seattle is stop Curt Warner, force the Seahawks to go to the air, beat up their quarterback a little bit, and intercept a few passes.

No doubt the Raiders' strategy in their 30-14 AFC Championship Game victory wasn't that much different than their game plans for the two regular season meetings. It's just that this was the playoffs, with a trip to the Super Bowl on the line. When a boisterous crowd of 88,734 at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum came to watch, the Raiders came to play.

First it should be pointed out that *knowing* you have to shut down Warner and actually shutting him down are two different things. But Warner was no factor this time—zero. He had nowhere to go and rushed only 11 times for 26 yards.

"Stopping Warner was the key," said Raiders linebacker Rod Martin. "We felt like our defense could make something happen. There weren't any lanes at all for Warner to run through. We stopped that, forced them into the passing game, and we were ready for that."

That they were. The Raiders intercepted Seattle quarterback Dave Krieg three times (and also sacked him three times), and later stole two passes from Jim Zorn, who replaced Krieg in the third quarter.

It was 27-0 by then, and Raiders running back Marcus Allen already had gained the lion's share of his season-high 154 yards rushing. In fact, it was Allen's 43-yard burst on a first down play that set up his three-yard touchdown catch from quarterback Jim Plunkett, which made it 27-0, effectively ending any doubt about the outcome except for the final score. (At that point, Seattle had managed to gain only 17 yards in total offense. The Seahawks finished the game with a total of just 167 yards, compared to 401 for the Raiders.)

"Did they take us lightly the first two times?" Krieg said after the game, repeating a reporter's question. "Let me put it this way. They didn't take us lightly this game. The Raiders are the best team in the AFC. They beat us when they had to. We beat 'em the first two times, but they definitely proved their worth today."

Seattle's two scores—both touchdown passes by Zorn—were really too late to create any tension. The Raiders themselves, by losing two interceptions and a pair of fumbles, prevented things from getting even more out of hand.

Running back Frank Hawkins scored on runs of one yard and seven yards in the second quarter, both touchdowns set up by big passes from Plunkett to Malcolm Barnwell (who caught five for 116 yards).

The Raiders' two other first-half scores, field goals by Chris Bahr, both followed interceptions. The first was by cornerback Lester Hayes midway through the first quarter, the second by strong safety Mike Davis late in the second quarter.

"All week long," said Davis, who had two interceptions, "we heard the words, 'play hard, play smart.' Those were the words of the week. The plan was to keep the turnover ratio down, create turnovers, tackle, and hit."

What could be simpler?

"We have no excuses," said Seattle head coach Chuch Knox. "I think they're capable of giving the Redskins all they want. We were off a little here, off a little there. We could not establish what we wanted to do."

That was putting it mildly.

"I don't think a lot of people on this team are basking in this [the win over the Seahawks]," said defensive end Howie Long. "It's not a success unless we go all the way. It's business as usual. We still have our work cut out for us."

Seattle	0	0	7	7	— 14
L.A. Raiders	3	17	7	3	— 30

LA —FG Bahr 20
LA —Hawkins 1 run (Bahr kick)
LA —Hawkins 7 run (Bahr kick)
LA —FG Bahr 45
LA —Allen 3 pass from Plunkett (Bahr kick)
Sea—Doornink 11 pass from Zorn (Johnson kick)
LA —FG Bahr 35
Sea—Young 9 pass from Zorn (Johnson kick)
Attendance—88,734

Below, left: *Seattle's rookie running back Curt Warner ran smack into an aroused silver and black attack.* Right: *Warner's counterpart with the Raiders, Marcus Allen, had a high time of it, rushing for a season-high 154 yards in the Raiders' 30-14 victory. Allen also caught a three-yard touchdown pass.*

The fifth time becomes the charm for a wayward kicker, as the 49ers fall shy of a miracle...and a title.

WASHINGTON 24, SAN FRANCISCO 21

For the Redskins, everything was going along relatively close to form. They were ahead of the 49ers 21-0 at the end of three quarters in the NFC Championship Game at sold-out RFK Stadium. Running back John Riggins (123 yards rushing) had scored two touchdowns (a four-yard run in the second quarter and a one-yard run in the third quarter), and quarterback Joe Theismann had connected with wide receiver Charlie Brown for a 70-yard touchdown pass.

Yes, that all seemed familiar. It didn't seem to matter a great deal that a surprise 36-yard pass from Riggins to Brown in the third quarter was wasted when placekicker Mark Moseley missed a 38-yard field goal—one of four he missed in the game (the others were from 45, 34, and 41 yards). Or that a lateral from Nick Giaquinto on a punt return was ruled an illegal forward pass, negating rookie Darrell Green's 53-yard sprint for an apparent touchdown. Or that punter Jeff Hayes's 14-yard scramble for a first down from punt formation also was negated by one of Moseley's four misses. Even Moseley's misses, though unusual, didn't seem that crucial.

But then the fourth quarter began, and the script, and the Redskins, started to unravel completely.

San Francisco quarterback Joe Montana, who tied one NFC Championship Game record with 27 completions, broke another with 48 attempts, and passed for 347 yards overall, hit wide receiver Mike Wilson for a five-yard touchdown pass in the first minute of the final period.

Five minutes later, Montana struck again, this time with a 76-yard scoring pass to Freddie Solomon. "He caught me by surprise, flatfooted," said cornerback Green. "Then he just took off."

Montana and Wilson, whose game-high eight catches for 57 yards helped ease the absence of leading receiver Dwight Clark, then surprised the Redskins one more time, with a 12-yard touchdown pass with 7:08 left to play.

The 49ers had scored 21 points in just over seven minutes, stolen all the game's momentum, and tied the score. The invincible Redskins suddenly looked vincible.

But Washington, no stranger to last-minute heroics, took the ball on its own 22 and chewed up most of the time left in the fourth quarter with a long drive that was aided by controversial pass interference and holding calls against 49ers defensive backs Eric Wright and Ronnie Lott, respectively. (San Francisco head coach Bill Walsh was particularly incensed about the call against Wright, claiming the ball was not catchable by intended receiver Art Monk. "A ten-foot Boston Celtic couldn't have caught that pass, much less a receiver," said Walsh.)

Then on fourth down with just 40 seconds left, Redskins head coach Joe Gibbs called on Moseley—still 0-for-the-game at that point—one more time.

Moseley was perfect on this one, from 25 yards, and the Redskins got a second straight trip to the Super Bowl.

Riggins later said he offered Moseley "a blindfold and a cigarette" before the veteran kicker trotted out for the game-winning attempt. But Moseley, who set an NFL kick scoring record with 161 points this year, said he wasn't dwelling on his earlier misses.

"I really wasn't sweating it that much," he said. "The chances of me missing again were slim."

Slim. That's about the most generous appraisal anyone had regarding the 49ers' chances in this game. But a victory is a victory, no matter the margin, and Washington, the slim victor this time, was more than happy to take the lean with the fat...all the way to Tampa.

San Francisco	0	0	0	21	— 21
Washington	0	7	14	3	— 24

Wash — Riggins 4 run (Moseley kick)
Wash — Riggins 1 run (Moseley kick)
Wash — Brown 70 pass from Theismann (Moseley kick)
SF — Wilson 5 pass from Montana (Wersching kick)
SF — Solomon 76 pass from Montana (Wersching kick)
SF — Wilson 12 pass from Montana (Wersching kick)
Wash — FG Moseley 25
Attendance—55,363

Below, left: *Wide receiver Charlie Brown's third-quarter 70-yard touchdown catch put the Redskins in front 21-0.* Middle: *Three touchdown passes by quarterback Joe Montana brought the 49ers back in the fourth quarter.* Right: *After four misses, Mark Moseley kicked the game-winner.*

Pro Bowl

American Football Conference

OFFENSE

Wide Receivers
Cris Collinsworth . . . . . Cincinnati
Carlos Carson . . . . . Kansas City
Mark Duper . . . . . Miami
Wes Chandler . . . . . San Diego

Tackles
Anthony Muñoz . . . . . Cincinnati
Marvin Powell . . . . . New York Jets
Brian Holloway . . . . . New England

Guards
John Hannah . . . . . New England
Chris Hinton . . . . . Baltimore
Ed Newman . . . . . Miami

Centers
Dwight Stephenson . . . . . Miami
Mike Webster . . . . . Pittsburgh

Tight Ends
Todd Christensen . . . . Los Angeles Raiders
Kellen Winslow . . . . . San Diego

Quarterbacks
Dan Marino . . . . . Miami
Dan Fouts . . . . . San Diego

Running Backs
Curt Warner . . . . . Seattle
Earl Campbell . . . . . Houston
Joe Cribbs . . . . . Buffalo
Tony Collins . . . . . New England

DEFENSE

Ends
Doug Betters . . . . . Miami
Howie Long . . . . . Los Angeles Raiders
Mark Gastineau . . . . . New York Jets

Tackles
Bob Baumhower . . . . . Miami
Fred Smerlas . . . . . Buffalo
Joe Klecko . . . . . New York Jets

Outside Linebackers
Chip Banks . . . . . Cleveland
Rod Martin . . . . . Los Angeles Raiders
Ted Hendricks . . . . . Los Angeles Raiders

Middle Linebackers
Jack Lambert . . . . . Pittsburgh
Randy Gradishar . . . . . Denver

Cornerbacks
Lester Hayes . . . . . Los Angeles Raiders
Gary Green . . . . . Kansas City
Louis Wright . . . . . Denver

Safeties
Kenny Easley . . . . . Seattle
Deron Cherry . . . . . Kansas City
Vann McElroy . . . . . Los Angeles Raiders

SPECIALISTS

Punter
Rich Camarillo . . . . . New England

Kicker
Gary Anderson . . . . . Pittsburgh

Kick Returner
Greg Pruitt . . . . . Los Angeles Raiders

Players are listed by position and in order to total number of votes received. Prospective starters are in italics.

National Football Conference

OFFENSE

Wide Receivers
James Lofton . . . . . Green Bay
Mike Quick . . . . . Philadelphia
Roy Green . . . . . St. Louis
Charlie Brown . . . . . Washington

Tackles
Mike Kenn . . . . . Atlanta
Joe Jacoby . . . . . Washington
Jackie Slater . . . . . Los Angeles Rams

Guards
Kent Hill . . . . . Los Angeles Rams
Russ Grimm . . . . . Washington
R.C. Thielemann . . . . . Atlanta

Centers
Jeff Bostic . . . . . Washington
Larry McCarren . . . . . Green Bay

Tight Ends
Paul Coffman . . . . . Green Bay
Doug Cosbie . . . . . Dallas

Quarterbacks
Joe Theismann . . . . . Washington
Joe Montana . . . . . San Francisco

Running Backs
Eric Dickerson . . . . . Los Angeles Rams
William Andrews . . . . . Atlanta
Tony Dorsett . . . . . Dallas
Walter Payton . . . . . Chicago

DEFENSE

Ends
Lee Roy Selmon . . . . . Tampa Bay
Ed (Too Tall) Jones . . . . . Dallas
Fred Dean . . . . . San Francisco

Tackles
Doug English . . . . . Detroit
Randy White . . . . . Dallas
Dave Butz . . . . . Washington

Outside Linebackers
Lawrence Taylor . . . . . New York Giants
Hugh Green . . . . . Tampa Bay
Rickey Jackson . . . . . New Orleans

Middle Linebackers
Mike Singletary . . . . . Chicago
Harry Carson . . . . . New York Giants

Cornerbacks
Ronnie Lott . . . . . San Francisco
Everson Walls . . . . . Dallas
Mark Haynes . . . . . New York Giants

Safeties
Mark Murphy . . . . . Washington
Nolan Cromwell . . . . . Los Angeles Rams
Dwight Hicks . . . . . San Francisco

SPECIALISTS

Punter
Carl Birdsong . . . . . St. Louis

Kicker
Ali Haji-Sheikh . . . . . New York Giants

Kick Returner
Billy (White Shoes) Johnson . . . . . Atlanta

Players are listed by position and in order of total number of votes received. Prospective starters are in italics.

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1983 Statistics

LEADING RUSHERS	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
AFC					
Curt Warner, Seattle	335	1449	4.3	60	13
Earl Campbell, Houston	322	1301	4.0	42	12
Mike Pruitt, Cleveland	293	1184	4.0	27	10
Joe Cribbs, Buffalo	263	1131	4.3	45	3
Curtis Dickey, Baltimore	254	1122	4.4	56	4
Tony Collins, New England	219	1049	4.8	50	10
Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders	266	1014	3.8	19	9
Franco Harris, Pittsburgh	279	1007	3.6	19	5
Chuck Muncie, San Diego	235	886	3.8	34	12
Randy McMillan, Baltimore	198	802	4.1	39	5
Pete Johnson, Cincinnati	210	763	3.6	16	14
Sammy Winder, Denver	196	757	3.9	52	3
Andra Franklin, Miami	224	746	3.3	18	8
Tony Nathan, Miami	151	685	4.5	40	3
Freeman McNeil, N.Y. Jets	160	654	4.1	19	1
Frank Pollard, Pittsburgh	135	608	4.5	32	4
Dwayne Crutchfield, N.Y. Jets-Houston	140	578	4.1	17	3
Mosi Tatupu, New England	106	578	5.5	55	4
Frank Hawkins, L.A. Raiders	110	526	4.8	32	6
Charles Alexander, Cincinnati	153	523	3.4	12	3
NFC					
Eric Dickerson, L.A. Rams	390	1808	4.6	85	18
William Andrews, Atlanta	331	1567	4.7	27	7
Walter Payton, Chicago	314	1421	4.5	49	6
John Riggins, Washington	375	1347	3.6	44	24
Tony Dorsett, Dallas	289	1321	4.6	77	8
Ottis Anderson, St. Louis	296	1270	4.3	43	5
George Rogers, New Orleans	256	1144	4.5	76	5
Billy Sims, Detroit	220	1040	4.7	41	7
Butch Woolfolk, N.Y. Giants	246	857	3.5	22	4
Wendell Tyler, San Francisco	176	856	4.9	39	4
Wayne Wilson, New Orleans	199	787	4.0	29	9
Joe Washington, Washington	145	772	5.3	41	0
Roger Craig, San Francisco	176	725	4.1	71	8
Gerry Ellis, Green Bay	141	696	4.9	71	4
Matt Suhey, Chicago	149	681	4.6	39	4
Darrin Nelson, Minnesota	154	642	4.2	56	1
James Wilder, Tampa Bay	161	640	4.0	75	4
Rob Carpenter, N.Y. Giants	170	624	3.7	37	4
Ron Springs, Dallas	149	541	3.6	19	7
Ted Brown, Minnesota	120	476	4.0	43	10

LONGEST RUNS

NFC—85 yards, touchdown, Eric Dickerson, L.A. Rams vs. N.Y. Jets, September 25
AFC—80 yards, Larry Moriarity, Houston vs. L.A. Raiders, September 11

BEST PERFORMANCES

NFC—219 yards, 31 attempts, James Wilder, Tampa Bay vs. Minnesota, November 6
AFC—212 yards, 23 attempts, Tony Collins, New England vs. N.Y. Jets, September 18

Eric Dickerson, Los Angeles Rams

William Andrews, Atlanta Falcons

Curt Warner, Seattle Seahawks

1983 Statistics

LEADING PASSERS	Att.	Comp.	Pct. Comp.	Yds. Gnd.	Avg. Yds. Gained	TD Pass	Pct. TD	LP	Int.	Pct. Int.	Rating
AFC											
Dan Marino, Miami	296	173	58.4	2210	7.47	20	6.8	85	6	2.0	96.0
Dave Krieg, Seattle	243	147	60.5	2139	8.80	18	7.4	50	11	4.5	95.0
Dan Fouts, San Diego	340	215	63.2	2975	8.75	20	5.9	59	15	4.4	92.4
Ken Anderson, Cincinnati	297	198	66.7	2329	7.84	12	4.0	80	13	4.4	85.5
Jim Plunkett, L.A. Raiders	379	230	60.7	2935	7.74	20	5.3	99	18	4.7	82.7
Steve Grogan, New Eng.	303	168	55.4	2411	7.96	15	5.0	76	12	4.0	81.4
Bill Kenney, Kansas City	603	346	57.4	4348	7.21	24	4.0	53	18	3.0	80.8
Steve DeBerg, Denver	215	119	55.3	1617	7.52	9	4.2	54	7	3.3	79.9
Brian Sipe, Cleveland	496	291	58.7	3566	7.19	26	5.2	66	23	4.6	79.1
Richard Todd, N.Y. Jets	518	308	59.5	3478	6.71	18	3.5	64	26	5.0	70.3
Joe Ferguson, Buffalo	508	281	55.3	2995	5.90	26	5.1	43	25	4.9	69.3
Jim Zorn, Seattle	205	103	50.2	1166	5.69	7	3.4	43	7	3.4	64.8
Mike Pagel, Baltimore	328	163	49.7	2353	7.17	12	3.7	72	17	5.2	64.0
Oliver Luck, Houston	217	124	57.1	1375	6.34	8	3.7	66	13	6.0	63.4
Cliff Stoudt, Pittsburgh	381	197	51.7	2553	6.70	12	3.1	52	21	5.5	60.6
Ed Luther, San Diego	287	151	52.6	1875	6.53	7	2.4	46	17	5.9	56.6
John Elway, Denver	259	123	47.5	1663	6.42	7	2.7	49	14	5.4	54.9
NFC											
Steve Bartkowski, Atlanta	432	274	63.4	3167	7.33	22	5.1	76	5	5.2	97.6
Joe Theismann, Wash.	459	276	60.1	3714	8.09	29	6.3	84	11	2.4	97.0
Joe Montana, San Fran.	515	332	64.5	3910	7.59	26	5.0	77	12	2.3	94.6
Neil Lomax, St. Louis	354	209	59.0	2636	7.45	24	6.8	71	11	3.1	92.0
Lynn Dickey, Green Bay	484	289	59.7	4458	9.21	32	6.6	75	29	6.0	87.3
Danny White, Dallas	533	334	62.7	3980	7.47	29	5.4	80	23	4.3	85.6
Jim McMahon, Chicago	295	175	59.3	2184	7.40	12	4.1	87	13	4.4	77.6
Vince Ferragamo, Rams	464	274	59.1	3276	7.06	22	4.7	61	23	5.0	75.9
Ron Jaworski, Philadelphia	446	235	52.7	3315	7.43	20	4.5	83	18	4.0	75.1
Jack Thompson, T.B.	423	249	58.9	2906	6.87	18	4.3	80	21	5.0	73.3
Steve Dils, Minnesota	444	239	53.8	2840	6.40	11	2.5	68	16	3.6	66.8
Eric Hipple, Detroit	387	204	52.7	2577	6.66	12	3.1	80	18	4.7	64.7
Ken Stabler, New Orleans	311	176	56.6	1988	6.39	9	2.9	48	18	5.8	61.4
Scott Brunner, N.Y. Giants	386	190	49.2	2516	6.52	9	2.3	62	22	5.7	54.3

LONGEST PASS PLAYS

AFC—99 yards, touchdown, Jim Plunkett to Cliff Branch, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, October 2

NFC—87 yards, touchdown, Jim McMahon to Willie Gault, Chicago vs. Green Bay, December 4

LEADING RECEIVERS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TDs
AFC				
Todd Christensen, L.A. Raiders	92	1247	13.6	12
Ozzie Newsome, Cleveland	89	970	10.9	6
Kellen Winslow, San Diego	88	1172	13.3	8
Tim Smith, Houston	83	1176	14.2	6
Carlos Carson, Kansas City	80	1351	16.9	7
Steve Largent, Seattle	72	1074	14.9	11
Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders	68	590	8.7	2
Cris Collinsworth, Cincinnati	66	1126	17.1	5
Charlie Joiner, San Diego	65	960	14.8	3
Wesley Walker, N.Y. Jets	61	868	14.2	7
Steve Watson, Denver	59	1133	19.2	5
Stanley Morgan, New England	58	863	14.9	2
Wes Chandler, San Diego	58	845	14.6	5
Joe Cribbs, Buffalo	57	524	9.2	7
Tony Nathan, Miami	52	461	8.9	1
Mark Duper, Miami	51	1003	19.7	10
Henry Marshall, Kansas City	50	788	15.8	6
Bruce Harper, N.Y. Jets	48	413	8.6	2
Theotis Brown, Seattle-Kansas City	47	418	8.9	2
Lam Jones, N.Y. Jets	43	734	17.1	4
NFC				
Roy Green, St. Louis	78	1227	15.7	14
Charlie Brown, Washington	78	1225	15.7	8
Earnest Gray, N.Y. Giants	78	1139	14.6	5
Ron Springs, Dallas	73	589	8.1	1
Dwight Clark, San Francisco	70	840	12.0	8
Mike Quick, Philadelphia	69	1409	20.4	13
Billy Johnson, Atlanta	64	709	11.1	4
William Andrews, Atlanta	59	609	10.3	4
James Lofton, Green Bay	58	1300	22.4	8
John Jefferson, Green Bay	57	830	14.6	7
James Wilder, Tampa Bay	57	380	6.7	2
Stacey Bailey, Atlanta	55	881	16.0	6
Mike Barber, L.A. Rams	55	657	11.9	3
Paul Coffman, Green Bay	54	814	15.1	11
Ottis Anderson, St. Louis	54	459	8.5	1
Walter Payton, Chicago	53	607	11.5	2
Gerry Ellis, Green Bay	52	603	11.6	2
Darrin Nelson, Minnesota	51	618	12.1	0
Eric Dickerson, L.A. Rams	51	404	7.9	2

BEST PERFORMANCES

AFC—14 catches, 162 yards, Kellen Winslow, San Diego vs. Kansas City, October 2

NFC—11 catches, 126 yards, James Wilder, Tampa Bay vs. Cincinnati, September 25; 11 catches, 180 yards, Charlie Brown, Washington vs. L.A. Raiders, October 2; 11 catches, 126 yards, Ron Springs, Dallas vs. Tampa Bay, October 9; 11 catches, 110 yards, Tony Galbreath, Minnesota vs. Tampa Bay, November 6

LEADING INTERCEPTORS	No.	Yards	Long	TDs
AFC				
Ken Riley, Cincinnati	8	89	42	2
Vann McElroy, L.A. Raiders	8	68	28	0
Kenny Easley, Seattle	7	106	48	0
Deron Cherry, Kansas City	7	100	41	0
Lance Mehl, N.Y. Jets	7	57	34	1
Danny Walters, San Diego	7	55	33	0
Rick Sanford, New England	7	24	16	0
NFC				
Mark Murphy, Washington	9	127	48	0
Beasley Reece, N.Y. Giants-Tampa Bay	8	103	29	0
Lionel Washington, St. Louis	8	92	26	0
Eric Wright, San Francisco	7	164	60	2
Johnnie Poe, New Orleans	7	146	31	1
Leslie Frazier, Chicago	7	135	58	1
Bruce McNorton, Detroit	7	30	15	0

LONGEST INTERCEPTION RETURNS

AFC—73 yards, touchdown, Jacob Green, Seattle vs. Cleveland, October 2

NFC—70 yards, touchdown, Bobby Johnson, New Orleans vs. Tampa Bay, October 23; 70 yards, touchdown, Mel Kaufman, Washington vs. St. Louis, November 6; 70 yards, touchdown, Roosevelt Barnes, Detroit vs. Pittsburgh, October 2

Dan Marino, Miami Dolphins

Todd Christensen, Los Angeles Raiders

Ken Riley, Cincinnati Bengals

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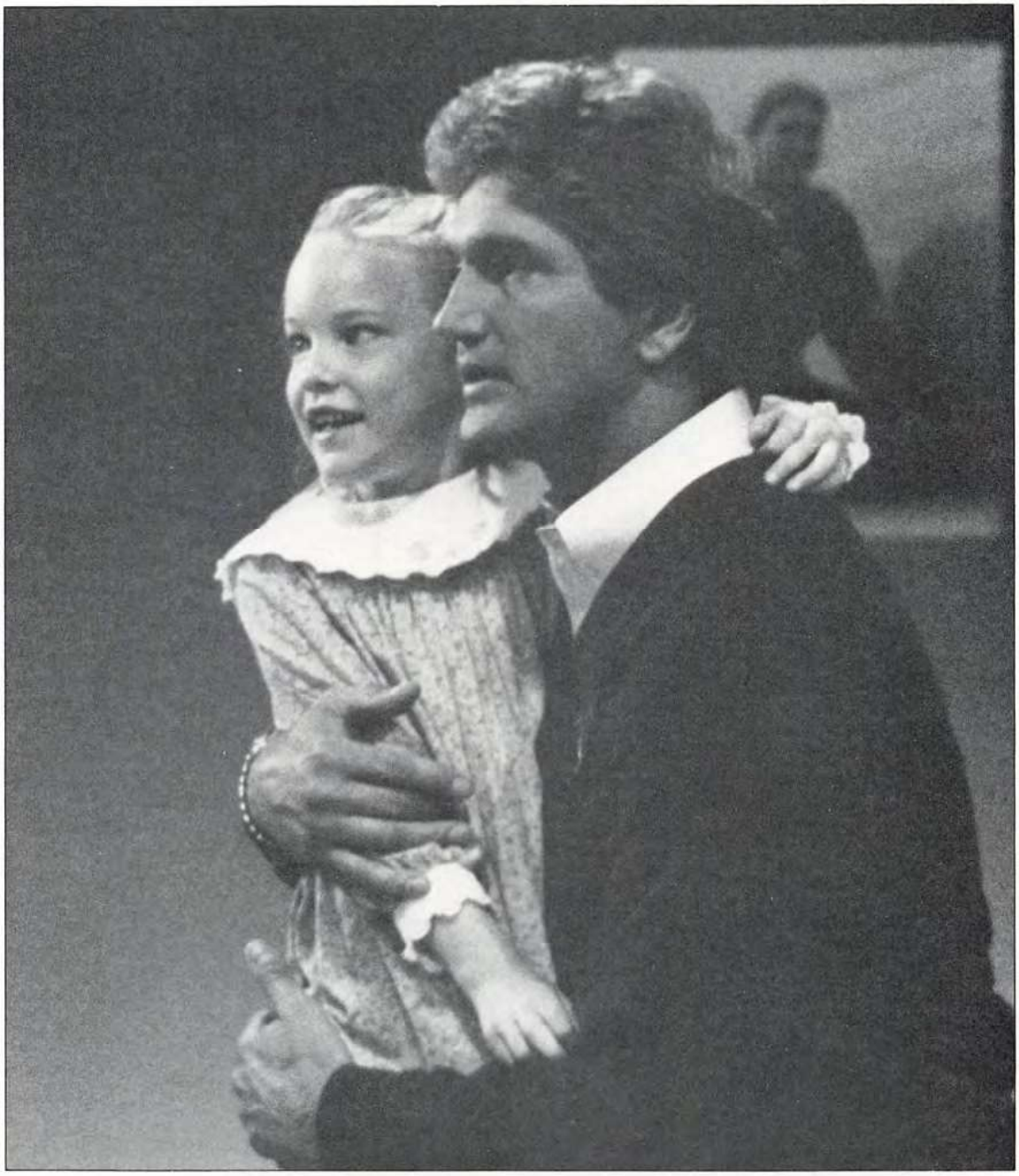

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1983 Statistics

LEADING SCORERS, KICKING	PAT	FG	Long	TP
AFC				
Gary Anderson, Pittsburgh	38-39	27-31	49	119
Nick Lowery, Kansas City	44-45	24-30	58	116
Chris Bahr, L.A. Raiders	51-53	21-27	47	114
Raul Allegre, Baltimore	22-24	30-35	55	112
Norm Johnson, Seattle	49-50	18-25	54	103
Matt Bahr, Cleveland	38-40	21-24	47	101
Uwe von Schamann, Miami	45-48	18-27	52	99
Rich Karlis, Denver	33-34	21-25	50	96
Rolf Benirschke, San Diego	43-45	15-24	51	88
Jim Breech, Cincinnati	39-41	16-23	47	87
NFC				
Mark Moseley, Washington	62-63	33-47	51	161
Ali Haji-Sheikh, N.Y. Giants	22-23	35-42	56	127
Ray Wersching, San Francisco	51-51	25-30	52	126
Rafael Septien, Dallas	57-59	22-27	47	123
Jan Stenerud, Green Bay	52-52	21-26	48	115
Eddie Murray, Detroit	38-38	25-32	54	113
Benny Ricardo, Minnesota	33-34	25-33	44	108
Mick Luckhurst, Atlanta	43-45	17-22	49	94
Morten Andersen, New Orleans	37-38	18-23	52	91
Neil O'Donoghue, St. Louis	45-47	15-29	52	90

LONGEST FIELD GOALS

AFC—58 yards, Nick Lowery, Kansas City vs. Washington, September 18; 58 yards, Steve Cox, Cleveland vs. Denver, December 4

NFC—56 yards, Ali Haji-Sheikh, N.Y. Giants vs. Green Bay, September 26; 56 yards, Ali Haji-Sheikh, N.Y. Giants vs. Detroit, November 7

LEADING SCORERS, TOUCHDOWNS	TDs	Rush	Rec.	Ret.	TP
AFC					
Pete Johnson, Cincinnati	14	14	0	0	84
Curt Warner, Seattle	14	13	1	0	84
Chuck Muncie, San Diego	13	12	1	0	78
Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders	12	9	2	1	72
Earl Campbell, Houston	12	12	0	0	72
Todd Christensen, L.A. Raiders	12	0	12	0	72
Mike Pruitt, Cleveland	12	10	2	0	72
Steve Largent, Seattle	11	0	11	0	66
NFC					
John Riggins, Washington	24	24	0	0	144
Eric Dickerson, L.A. Rams	20	18	2	0	120
Roy Green, St. Louis	14	0	14	0	84
Mike Quick, Philadelphia	13	0	13	0	78
Roger Craig, San Francisco	12	8	4	0	72
William Andrews, Atlanta	11	7	4	0	66
Ted Brown, Minnesota	11	10	1	0	66
Paul Coffman, Green Bay	11	0	11	0	66
Wayne Wilson, New Orleans	11	9	2	0	66

BEST PERFORMANCES

NFC—24 points, 4 touchdowns, Roy Green, St. Louis vs. Seattle, November 13

AFC—18 points, 3 touchdowns, by 11 players: Todd Christensen, L.A. Raiders (twice); Earl Campbell, Houston; Tony Collins and Mosi Tatupu, New England; Joe Cribbs, Buffalo; Pete Johnson, Cincinnati; Steve Largent, Seattle; Chuck Muncie and Kellen Winslow, San Diego; Mike Pruitt, Cleveland; and Curt Warner, Seattle. 18 points, 5 field goals and 3 extra points, Rich Karlis, Denver vs. Seattle, November 20

LEADING PUNTERS	No.	Yards	Long	Avg
AFC				
Rohn Stark, Baltimore	91	4124	68	45.3
Rich Camarillo, New England	81	3615	70	44.6
Maury Buford, San Diego	63	2763	60	43.9
Reggie Roby, Miami	74	3189	64	43.1
Ray Guy, L.A. Raiders	78	3336	67	42.8
Craig Colquitt, Pittsburgh	80	3352	58	41.9
Pat McInally, Cincinnati	67	2804	60	41.9
Luke Prestridge, Denver	87	3620	60	41.6
Jeff Gossett, Cleveland	70	2854	60	40.8
Jim Arnold, Kansas City	93	3710	64	39.9
Chuck Ramsey, N.Y. Jets	81	3218	56	39.7
Greg Cater, Buffalo	89	3533	60	39.7
John James, Houston	79	3136	53	39.7
NFC				
Frank Garcia, Tampa Bay	95	4008	64	42.2
Max Runager, Philadelphia	59	2459	55	41.7
Bucky Scribner, Green Bay	69	2869	70	41.6
Greg Coleman, Minnesota	91	3780	65	41.5
Carl Birdsong, St. Louis	85	3529	59	41.5
Mike Black, Detroit	71	2911	60	41.0
Russell Erxleben, New Orleans	74	3034	60	41.0
Ralph Giacomarro, Atlanta	70	2823	57	40.3
Dave Jennings, N.Y. Giants	84	3386	66	40.3
John Misko, L.A. Rams	82	3301	67	40.3
Tom Orosz, San Francisco	65	2552	61	39.3
Jeff Hayes, Washington	72	2796	56	38.8

LONGEST PUNTS

AFC—70 yards, Rich Camarillo, New England vs. New Orleans, December 4

NFC—70 yards, Bucky Scribner, Green Bay vs. Cincinnati, October 30

LEADING PUNT RETURNERS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TDs
AFC				
Kirk Springs, N.Y. Jets	23	287	12.5	1
Greg Pruitt, L.A. Raiders	58	666	11.5	1
Paul Johns, Seattle	28	316	11.3	1
Zach Thomas, Denver	33	368	11.2	1
Ricky Smith, New England	38	398	10.5	0
Mike Martin, Cincinnati	23	227	9.9	0
Mark Clayton, Miami	41	392	9.6	1
Paul Skansi, Pittsburgh	43	363	8.4	0
J.T. Smith, Kansas City	26	210	8.1	0
Carl Roaches, Houston	20	159	8.0	0
NFC				
Henry Ellard, L.A. Rams	16	217	13.6	1
Dana McLemore, San Francisco	31	331	10.7	1
Billy Johnson, Atlanta	46	489	10.6	1
Ken Jenkins, Detroit	23	230	10.0	0
Dennis McKinnon, Chicago	34	316	9.3	1
Phillip Epps, Green Bay	36	324	9.0	1
Stump Mitchell, St. Louis	38	337	8.9	0
LeRoy Irvin, L.A. Rams	25	212	8.5	0
Pete Shaw, N.Y. Giants	29	234	8.1	0
Rod Hill, Dallas	30	232	7.7	0

LONGEST PUNT RETURNS

AFC—97 yards, touchdown, Greg Pruitt, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, October 2

NFC—90 yards, touchdown, Phillip Epps, Green Bay vs. Tampa Bay, October 2

LEADING KICKOFF RETURNERS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TDs
AFC				
Fulton Walker, Miami	36	962	26.7	0
Steve Brown, Houston	31	795	25.6	1
Kendall Williams, Baltimore	20	490	24.5	0
Zach Dixon, Baltimore-Seattle	51	1171	23.0	1
Kirk Springs, N.Y. Jets	16	364	22.8	0
Van Williams, Buffalo	22	494	22.5	0
Preston Brown, N.Y. Jets	29	645	22.2	0
Cle Montgomery, L.A. Raiders	21	464	22.1	0
Ricky Smith, New England	42	916	21.8	0
Dwight Walker, Cleveland	29	627	21.6	0
NFC				
Darrin Nelson, Minnesota	18	445	24.7	0
Michael Morton, Tampa Bay	30	689	23.0	0
Mike Nelms, Washington	35	802	22.9	0
Leon Bright, N.Y. Giants	21	475	22.6	0
Jarvis Redwine, Minnesota	38	838	22.1	0
Kenny Duckett, New Orleans	33	719	21.8	0
Stump Mitchell, St. Louis	36	778	21.6	0
Alvin Hall, Detroit	23	492	21.4	0
Glen Young, Philadelphia	26	547	21.0	0
Ken Jenkins, Detroit	22	459	20.9	0

LONGEST KICKOFF RETURNS

AFC—97 yards, touchdown, Carl Roaches, Houston vs. Pittsburgh, September 18

NFC—66 yards, Stump Mitchell, St. Louis vs. Dallas, September 11

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AFC Results

Overtime*

BALTIMORE COLTS

Sept. 4	at New England*	29-23
Sept. 11	DENVER	10-17
Sept. 18	at Buffalo	23-28
Sept. 25	CHICAGO*	22-19
Oct. 2	at Cincinnati	34-31
Oct. 9	NEW ENGLAND	12-7
Oct. 16	BUFFALO	7-30
Oct. 23	MIAMI	7-21
Oct. 30	at Philadelphia	22-21
Nov. 6	at New York Jets	17-14
Nov. 13	PITTSBURGH	13-24
Nov. 20	at Miami	0-37
Nov. 27	at Cleveland	23-41
Dec. 4	NEW YORK JETS	6-10
Dec. 11	at Denver	19-21
Dec. 18	HOUSTON	20-10
W 7	L 9	264-354

BUFFALO BILLS

Sept. 4	MIAMI	0-12
Sept. 11	at Cincinnati	10-6
Sept. 18	BALTIMORE	28-23
Sept. 25	HOUSTON	30-13
Oct. 3	N.Y. JETS (Mon.)	10-34
Oct. 9	at Miami*	38-35
Oct. 16	at Baltimore	30-7
Oct. 23	NEW ENGLAND	0-31
Oct. 30	NEW ORLEANS	27-21
Nov. 6	at New England	7-21
Nov. 13	at New York Jets	24-17
Nov. 20	L.A. RAIDERS	24-27
Nov. 27	at L.A. Rams	17-41
Dec. 4	at Kansas City	14-9
Dec. 11	SAN FRANCISCO	10-23
Dec. 18	at Atlanta	14-31
W 8	L 8	283-351

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Sept. 4	L.A. RAIDERS	10-20
Sept. 11	BUFFALO	6-10
Sept. 15	at Cleveland (Thurs.)	7-17
Sept. 25	at Tampa Bay	23-17
Oct. 2	BALTIMORE	31-34
Oct. 10	PITTSBURGH (Mon.)	14-24
Oct. 16	at Denver	17-24
Oct. 23	CLEVELAND	28-21
Oct. 30	GREEN BAY	34-14
Nov. 6	at Houston	55-14
Nov. 13	at Kansas City	15-20
Nov. 20	HOUSTON	38-10
Nov. 28	at Miami (Mon.)	14-38
Dec. 4	at Pittsburgh	23-10
Dec. 11	DETROIT	17-9
Dec. 17	at Minnesota (Sat.)	14-20
W 7	L 9	346-302

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Sept. 4	MINNESOTA	21-27
Sept. 11	at Detroit	31-26
Sept. 15	CINCINNATI (Thurs.)	17-7
Sept. 25	at San Diego*	30-24
Oct. 2	SEATTLE	9-24
Oct. 9	N.Y. JETS (Mon.)	10-7
Oct. 16	at Pittsburgh	17-44
Oct. 23	at Cincinnati	21-28
Oct. 30	HOUSTON*	25-19
Nov. 6	at Green Bay (Milw.)	21-35
Nov. 13	TAMPA BAY	20-0
Nov. 20	at New England	30-0
Nov. 27	BALTIMORE	41-23
Dec. 4	at Denver	6-27
Dec. 11	at Houston	27-34
Dec. 18	PITTSBURGH	30-17
W 9	L 7	356-342

DENVER BRONCOS

Sept. 4	at Pittsburgh	14-10
Sept. 11	at Baltimore	17-10
Sept. 18	PHILADELPHIA	10-13
Sept. 25	L.A. RAIDERS	7-22
Oct. 2	at Chicago	14-31
Oct. 9	at Houston	26-14
Oct. 16	CINCINNATI	24-17
Oct. 23	SAN DIEGO	14-6
Oct. 30	KANSAS CITY	27-24
Nov. 6	at Seattle	19-27
Nov. 13	at L.A. Raiders	20-22
Nov. 20	SEATTLE	38-27
Nov. 27	at San Diego	7-31
Dec. 4	CLEVELAND	27-6
Dec. 11	BALTIMORE	21-19
Dec. 18	at Kansas City	17-48
W 9	L 7	302-327

HOUSTON OILERS

Sept. 4	GREEN BAY*	38-41
Sept. 11	at L.A. Raiders	6-20
Sept. 18	PITTSBURGH	28-40
Sept. 25	at Buffalo	13-30
Oct. 2	at Pittsburgh	10-17
Oct. 9	DENVER	14-26
Oct. 16	at Minnesota	14-34
Oct. 23	KANSAS CITY*	10-13
Oct. 30	at Cleveland*	19-25
Nov. 6	CINCINNATI	14-55
Nov. 13	DETROIT	27-17
Nov. 20	at Cincinnati	10-38
Nov. 27	at Tampa Bay	24-33
Dec. 4	MIAMI	17-24
Dec. 11	CLEVELAND	34-27
Dec. 18	at Baltimore	10-20
W 2	L 14	288-460

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Sept. 4	SEATTLE	17-13
Sept. 12	SAN DIEGO (Mon.)	14-17
Sept. 18	at Washington	12-27
Sept. 25	at Miami	6-14
Oct. 2	ST. LOUIS	38-14
Oct. 9	at L.A. Raiders	20-21
Oct. 16	NEW YORK GIANTS	38-17
Oct. 23	at Houston*	13-10
Oct. 30	at Denver	24-27
Nov. 6	L.A. RAIDERS	20-28
Nov. 13	CINCINNATI	20-15
Nov. 20	at Dallas	21-41
Nov. 27	at Seattle*	48-51
Dec. 4	BUFFALO	9-14
Dec. 11	at San Diego	38-41
Dec. 18	DENVER	48-17
W 6	L 10	386-367

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

Sept. 4	at Cincinnati	20-10
Sept. 11	HOUSTON	20-6
Sept. 19	MIAMI (Mon.)	27-14
Sept. 25	at Denver	22-7
Oct. 2	at Washington	35-37
Oct. 9	KANSAS CITY	21-20
Oct. 16	at Seattle	36-38
Oct. 23	at Dallas	40-38
Oct. 30	SEATTLE	21-34
Nov. 6	at Kansas City	28-20
Nov. 13	DENVER	22-20
Nov. 20	at Buffalo	27-24
Nov. 27	NEW YORK GIANTS	27-12
Dec. 1	at San Diego (Thurs.)	42-10
Dec. 11	ST. LOUIS	24-34
Dec. 18	SAN DIEGO	30-14
W 12	L 4	442-338

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Sept. 4	at Buffalo	12-0
Sept. 11	NEW ENGLAND	34-24
Sept. 19	at L.A. Raiders (Mon.)	14-27
Sept. 25	KANSAS CITY	14-6
Oct. 2	at New Orleans	7-17
Oct. 9	BUFFALO*	35-38
Oct. 16	at New York Jets	32-14
Oct. 23	at Baltimore	21-7
Oct. 30	L.A. RAMS	30-14
Nov. 6	at San Francisco	20-17
Nov. 13	at New England	6-17
Nov. 20	BALTIMORE	37-0
Nov. 28	CINCINNATI (Mon.)	38-14
Dec. 4	at Houston	24-17
Dec. 10	ATLANTA (Sat.)	31-24
Dec. 16	NEW YORK JETS (Fri.)	34-14
W 12	L 4	389-250

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Sept. 4	BALTIMORE*	23-29
Sept. 11	at Miami	24-34
Sept. 18	NEW YORK JETS	23-13
Sept. 25	at Pittsburgh	28-23
Oct. 2	SAN FRANCISCO	13-33
Oct. 9	at Baltimore	7-12
Oct. 16	SAN DIEGO	37-21
Oct. 23	at Buffalo	31-0
Oct. 30	at Atlanta	13-24
Nov. 6	BUFFALO	21-7
Nov. 13	MIAMI	17-6
Nov. 20	CLEVELAND	0-30
Nov. 27	at New York Jets	3-26
Dec. 4	NEW ORLEANS	7-0
Dec. 11	at L.A. Rams	21-7
Dec. 18	at Seattle	6-24
W 8	L 8	274-289

NEW YORK JETS

Sept. 4	at San Diego	41-29
Sept. 11	SEATTLE	10-17
Sept. 18	at New England	13-23
Sept. 25	L.A. RAMS*	27-24
Oct. 3	at Buffalo (Mon.)	34-10
Oct. 9	at Cleveland	7-10
Oct. 16	MIAMI	14-32
Oct. 23	ATLANTA	21-27
Oct. 30	at San Francisco	27-13
Nov. 6	BALTIMORE	14-17
Nov. 13	BUFFALO	17-24
Nov. 21	at New Orleans (Mon.)	31-28
Nov. 27	NEW ENGLAND	26-3
Dec. 4	at Baltimore	10-6
Dec. 10	PITTSBURGH (Sat.)	7-34
Dec. 16	at Miami (Fri.)	14-34
W 7	L 9	313-331

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Sept. 4	DENVER	10-14
Sept. 11	at Green Bay	25-21
Sept. 18	at Houston	40-28
Sept. 25	NEW ENGLAND	23 28
Oct. 2	HOUSTON	17-10
Oct. 10	at Cincinnati (Mon.)	24-14
Oct. 16	CLEVELAND	44-17
Oct. 23	at Seattle	27-21
Oct. 30	TAMPA BAY	17-12
Nov. 6	SAN DIEGO	26-3
Nov. 13	at Baltimore	24-13
Nov. 20	MINNESOTA	14-17
Nov. 24	at Detroit (Thanks.)	3-45
Dec. 4	CINCINNATI	10-23
Dec. 10	at N.Y. Jets (Sat.)	34-7
Dec. 18	at Cleveland	17-30
W 10	L 6	355-303

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Sept. 4	NEW YORK JETS	29-41
Sept. 12	at Kansas City (Mon.)	17-14
Sept. 18	at Seattle	31-34
Sept. 25	CLEVELAND*	24-30
Oct. 2	at New York Giants	41-34
Oct. 9	SEATTLE	28-21
Oct. 16	at New England	21-37
Oct. 23	at Denver	6-14
Oct. 31	WASHINGTON (Mon.)	24-27
Nov. 6	at Pittsburgh	3-26
Nov. 13	DALLAS	24-23
Nov. 20	at St. Louis	14-44
Nov. 27	DENVER	31-7
Dec. 1	L.A. RAIDERS (Thurs.)	10-42
Dec. 11	KANSAS CITY	41-38
Dec. 18	at L.A. Raiders	14-30
W 6	L 10	358-462

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Sept. 4	at Kansas City	13-17
Sept. 11	at New York Jets	17-10
Sept. 18	SAN DIEGO	34-31
Sept. 25	WASHINGTON	17-27
Oct. 2	at Cleveland	24-9
Oct. 9	at San Diego	21-28
Oct. 16	L.A. RAIDERS	38-36
Oct. 23	PITTSBURGH	21-27
Oct. 30	at L.A. Raiders	34-21
Nov. 6	DENVER	27-19
Nov. 13	at St. Louis	28-33
Nov. 20	at Denver	27-38
Nov. 27	KANSAS CITY*	51-48
Dec. 4	DALLAS	10-35
Dec. 11	at New York Giants	17-12
Dec. 18	NEW ENGLAND	24-6
W 9	L 7	403-397

1983 AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Miami	12	4	0	.750	389	250
New England	8	8	0	.500	274	289
Buffalo	8	8	0	.500	283	351
Baltimore	7	9	0	.438	264	354
N.Y. Jets	7	9	0	.438	313	331

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Pittsburgh	10	6	0	.625	355	303
Cleveland	9	7	0	.562	356	342
Cincinnati	7	9	0	.438	346	302
Houston	2	14	0	.125	288	460

Western Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
L.A. Raiders	12	4	0	.750	442	338
Seattle	9	7	0	.562	403	397
Denver	9	7	0	.562	302	327
San Diego	6	10	0	.375	358	462
Kansas City	6	10	0	.375	386	367

Wild Card Game
Seattle 31, Denver 7

Divisional Playoffs
Seattle 27, Miami 20
L.A. Raiders 38, Pittsburgh 10

Championship Game
L.A. Raiders 30, Seattle 14

NFC Results

Overtime*

ATLANTA FALCONS

Sept. 4	at Chicago	20-17
Sept. 11	NEW YORK GIANTS*	13-16
Sept. 18	at Detroit	30-14
Sept. 25	at San Francisco	20-24
Oct. 2	PHILADELPHIA	24-28
Oct. 9	NEW ORLEANS	17-19
Oct. 16	at L.A. Rams	21-27
Oct. 23	at New York Jets	27-21
Oct. 30	NEW ENGLAND	24-13
Nov. 6	at New Orleans	10-27
Nov. 14	L.A. RAMS (Mon.)	13-36
Nov. 20	SAN FRANCISCO	28-24
Nov. 27	GREEN BAY*	47-41
Dec. 4	at Washington	21-37
Dec. 10	at Miami (Sat.)	24-31
Dec. 18	BUFFALO	31-14
W 7	**L 9**	**370-389**

CHICAGO BEARS

Sept. 4	ATLANTA	17-20
Sept. 11	TAMPA BAY	17-10
Sept. 18	at New Orleans*	31-34
Sept. 25	at Baltimore*	19-22
Oct. 2	DENVER	31-14
Oct. 9	MINNESOTA	14-23
Oct. 16	at Detroit	17-31
Oct. 23	at Philadelphia	7-6
Oct. 30	DETROIT	17-38
Nov. 6	at L.A. Rams	14-21
Nov. 13	PHILADELPHIA	17-14
Nov. 20	at Tampa Bay	27-0
Nov. 27	SAN FRANCISCO	13-3
Dec. 4	at Green Bay	28-31
Dec. 11	at Minnesota	19-13
Dec. 18	GREEN BAY	23-21
W 8	**L 8**	**311-301**

DALLAS COWBOYS

Sept. 5	at Washington (Mon.)	31-30
Sept. 11	at St. Louis	34-17
Sept. 18	NEW YORK GIANTS	28-13
Sept. 25	NEW ORLEANS	21-20
Oct. 2	at Minnesota	37-24
Oct. 9	TAMPA BAY*	27-24
Oct. 16	at Philadelphia	37-7
Oct. 23	L.A. RAIDERS	38-40
Oct. 30	at New York Giants	38-20
Nov. 6	PHILADELPHIA	27-20
Nov. 13	at San Diego	23-24
Nov. 20	KANSAS CITY	41-21
Nov. 24	ST. LOUIS (Thanks.)	35-17
Dec. 4	at Seattle	35-10
Dec. 11	WASHINGTON	10-31
Dec. 19	at San Francisco (Mn.)	17-42
W 12	**L 4**	**479-360**

DETROIT LIONS

Sept. 4	at Tampa Bay	11-0
Sept. 11	CLEVELAND	26-31
Sept. 18	ATLANTA	14-30
Sept. 25	at Minnesota	17-20
Oct. 2	at L.A. Rams	10-21
Oct. 9	GREEN BAY	38-14
Oct. 16	CHICAGO	31-17
Oct. 23	at Washington	17-38
Oct. 30	at Chicago	38-17
Nov. 7	N.Y. GIANTS (Mon.)	15-9
Nov. 13	at Houston	17-27
Nov. 20	at Green Bay (Milw.)*	23-20
Nov. 24	PITTSBURGH (Thks.)	45-3
Dec. 5	MINNESOTA (Mon.)	13-2
Dec. 11	at Cincinnati	9-17
Dec. 18	TAMPA BAY	23-20
W 9	**L 7**	**347-286**

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Sept. 4	at Houston*	41-38
Sept. 11	PITTSBURGH	21-25
Sept. 18	L.A. RAMS (Milw.)	27-24
Sept. 26	at N.Y. Giants (Mon.)	3-27
Oct. 2	TAMPA BAY	55-14
Oct. 9	at Detroit	14-38
Oct. 17	WASHINGTON (Mon.)	48-47
Oct. 23	MINNESOTA*	17-20
Oct. 30	at Cincinnati	14-34
Nov. 6	CLEVELAND (Milw.)	35-21
Nov. 13	at Minnesota	29-21
Nov. 20	DETROIT (Milw.)*	20-23
Nov. 27	at Atlanta*	41-47
Dec. 4	CHICAGO	31-28
Dec. 12	at Tampa Bay (Mon.)*	12-9
Dec. 18	at Chicago	21-23
W 8	**L 8**	**429-439**

LOS ANGELES RAMS

Sept. 4	at New York Giants	16-6
Sept. 11	NEW ORLEANS	30-27
Sept. 18	at Green Bay (Milw.)	24-27
Sept. 25	at New York Jets*	24-27
Oct. 2	DETROIT	21-10
Oct. 9	at San Francisco	10-7
Oct. 16	ATLANTA	27-21
Oct. 23	SAN FRANCISCO	35-45
Oct. 30	at Miami	14-30
Nov. 6	CHICAGO	21-14
Nov. 14	at Atlanta (Mon.)	36-13
Nov. 20	WASHINGTON	20-42
Nov. 27	BUFFALO	41-17
Dec. 4	at Philadelphia	9-13
Dec. 11	NEW ENGLAND	7-21
Dec. 18	at New Orleans	26-24
W 9	**L 7**	**361-344**

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Sept. 4	at Cleveland	27-21
Sept. 8	SAN FRANCISCO (Th.)	17-48
Sept. 18	at Tampa Bay*	19-16
Sept. 25	DETROIT	20-17
Oct. 2	DALLAS	24-37
Oct. 9	at Chicago	23-14
Oct. 16	HOUSTON	34-14
Oct. 23	at Green Bay*	20-17
Oct. 30	at St. Louis	31-41
Nov. 6	TAMPA BAY	12-17
Nov. 13	GREEN BAY	21-29
Nov. 20	at Pittsburgh	17-14
Nov. 27	at New Orleans	16-17
Dec. 5	at Detroit (Mon.)	2-13
Dec. 11	CHICAGO	13-19
Dec. 17	CINCINNATI (Sat.)	20-14
W 8	**L 8**	**316-348**

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Sept. 4	ST. LOUIS	28-17
Sept. 11	at L.A. Rams	27-30
Sept. 18	CHICAGO*	34-31
Sept. 25	at Dallas	20-21
Oct. 2	MIAMI	17-7
Oct. 9	at Atlanta	19-17
Oct. 16	SAN FRANCISCO	13-32
Oct. 23	at Tampa Bay	24-21
Oct. 30	at Buffalo	21-27
Nov. 6	ATLANTA	27-10
Nov. 13	at San Francisco	0-27
Nov. 21	N.Y. JETS (Mon.)	28-31
Nov. 27	MINNESOTA	17-16
Dec. 4	at New England	0-7
Dec. 11	at Philadelphia*	20-17
Dec. 18	L.A. RAMS	24-26
W 8	**L 8**	**319-337**

NEW YORK GIANTS

Sept. 4	L.A. RAMS	6-16
Sept. 11	at Atlanta*	16-13
Sept. 18	at Dallas	13-28
Sept. 26	GREEN BAY (Mon.)	27-3
Oct. 2	SAN DIEGO	34-41
Oct. 9	PHILADELPHIA	13-17
Oct. 16	at Kansas City	17-38
Oct. 24	at St. Louis (Mon.)*	20-20
Oct. 30	DALLAS	20-38
Nov. 7	at Detroit (Mon.)	9-15
Nov. 13	WASHINGTON	17-33
Nov. 20	at Philadelphia	23-0
Nov. 27	at L.A. Raiders	12-27
Dec. 4	ST. LOUIS	6-10
Dec. 11	SEATTLE	12-17
Dec. 17	at Washington (Sat.)	22-31
W 3	**L 12 T 1**	**267-347**

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Sept. 3	at San Francisco	22-17
Sept. 11	WASHINGTON	13-23
Sept. 18	at Denver	13-10
Sept. 25	ST. LOUIS	11-14
Oct. 2	at Atlanta	28-24
Oct. 9	at New York Giants	17-13
Oct. 16	DALLAS	7-37
Oct. 23	CHICAGO	6-7
Oct. 30	BALTIMORE	21-22
Nov. 6	at Dallas	20-27
Nov. 13	at Chicago	14-17
Nov. 20	NEW YORK GIANTS	0-23
Nov. 27	at Washington	24-28
Dec. 4	L.A. RAMS	13-9
Dec. 11	NEW ORLEANS*	17-20
Dec. 18	at St. Louis	7-31
W 5	**L 11**	**233-322**

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

Sept. 4	at New Orleans	17-28
Sept. 11	DALLAS	17-34
Sept. 18	SAN FRANCISCO	27-42
Sept. 25	at Philadelphia	14-11
Oct. 2	at Kansas City	14-38
Oct. 9	WASHINGTON	14-38
Oct. 16	at Tampa Bay	34-27
Oct. 24	N.Y. GIANTS (Mon.)*	20-20
Oct. 30	MINNESOTA	41-31
Nov. 6	at Washington	7-45
Nov. 13	SEATTLE	33-28
Nov. 20	SAN DIEGO	44-14
Nov. 24	at Dallas (Thanks.)	17-35
Dec. 4	at New York Giants	10-6
Dec. 11	at L.A. Raiders	34-24
Dec. 18	PHILADELPHIA	31-7
W 8	**L 7 T 1**	**374-428**

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Sept. 3	PHILADELPHIA	17-22
Sept. 8	at Minnesota (Thurs.)	48-17
Sept. 18	at St. Louis	42-27
Sept. 25	ATLANTA	24-20
Oct. 2	at New England	33-13
Oct. 9	L.A. RAMS	7-10
Oct. 16	at New Orleans	32-13
Oct. 23	at L.A. Rams	45-35
Oct. 30	NEW YORK JETS	13-27
Nov. 6	MIAMI	17-20
Nov. 13	NEW ORLEANS	27-0
Nov. 20	at Atlanta	24-28
Nov. 27	at Chicago	3-13
Dec. 4	TAMPA BAY	35-21
Dec. 11	at Buffalo	23-10
Dec. 19	DALLAS (Mon.)	42-17
W 10	**L 6**	**432-293**

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Sept. 4	DETROIT	0-11
Sept. 11	at Chicago	10-17
Sept. 18	MINNESOTA*	16-19
Sept. 25	CINCINNATI	17-23
Oct. 2	at Green Bay	14-55
Oct. 9	at Dallas*	24-27
Oct. 16	ST. LOUIS	27-34
Oct. 23	NEW ORLEANS	21-24
Oct. 30	at Pittsburgh	12-17
Nov. 6	at Minnesota	17-12
Nov. 13	at Cleveland	0-20
Nov. 20	CHICAGO	0-27
Nov. 27	HOUSTON	33-24
Dec. 4	at San Francisco	21-35
Dec. 12	GREEN BAY (Mon.)*	9-12
Dec. 18	at Detroit	20-23
W 2	**L 14**	**241-380**

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Sept. 5	DALLAS (Mon.)	30-31
Sept. 11	at Philadelphia	23-13
Sept. 18	KANSAS CITY	27-12
Sept. 25	at Seattle	27-17
Oct. 2	L.A. RAIDERS	37-35
Oct. 9	at St. Louis	38-14
Oct. 17	at Green Bay (Mon.)	47-48
Oct. 23	DETROIT	38-17
Oct. 31	at San Diego (Mon.)	27-24
Nov. 6	ST. LOUIS	45-7
Nov. 13	at New York Giants	33-17
Nov. 20	at L.A. Rams	42-20
Nov. 27	PHILADELPHIA	28-24
Dec. 4	ATLANTA	37-21
Dec. 11	at Dallas	31-10
Dec. 17	N.Y. GIANTS (Sat.)	31-22
W 14	**L 2**	**541-332**

1983 NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Washington	14	2	0	.875	541	332
Dallas	12	4	0	.750	479	360
St. Louis	8	7	1	.531	374	428
Philadelphia	5	11	0	.313	233	322
N.Y. Giants	3	12	1	.219	267	347

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Detroit	9	7	0	.562	347	286
Green Bay	8	8	0	.500	439	439
Chicago	8	8	0	.500	311	301
Minnesota	8	8	0	.500	316	348
Tampa Bay	2	14	0	.125	241	380

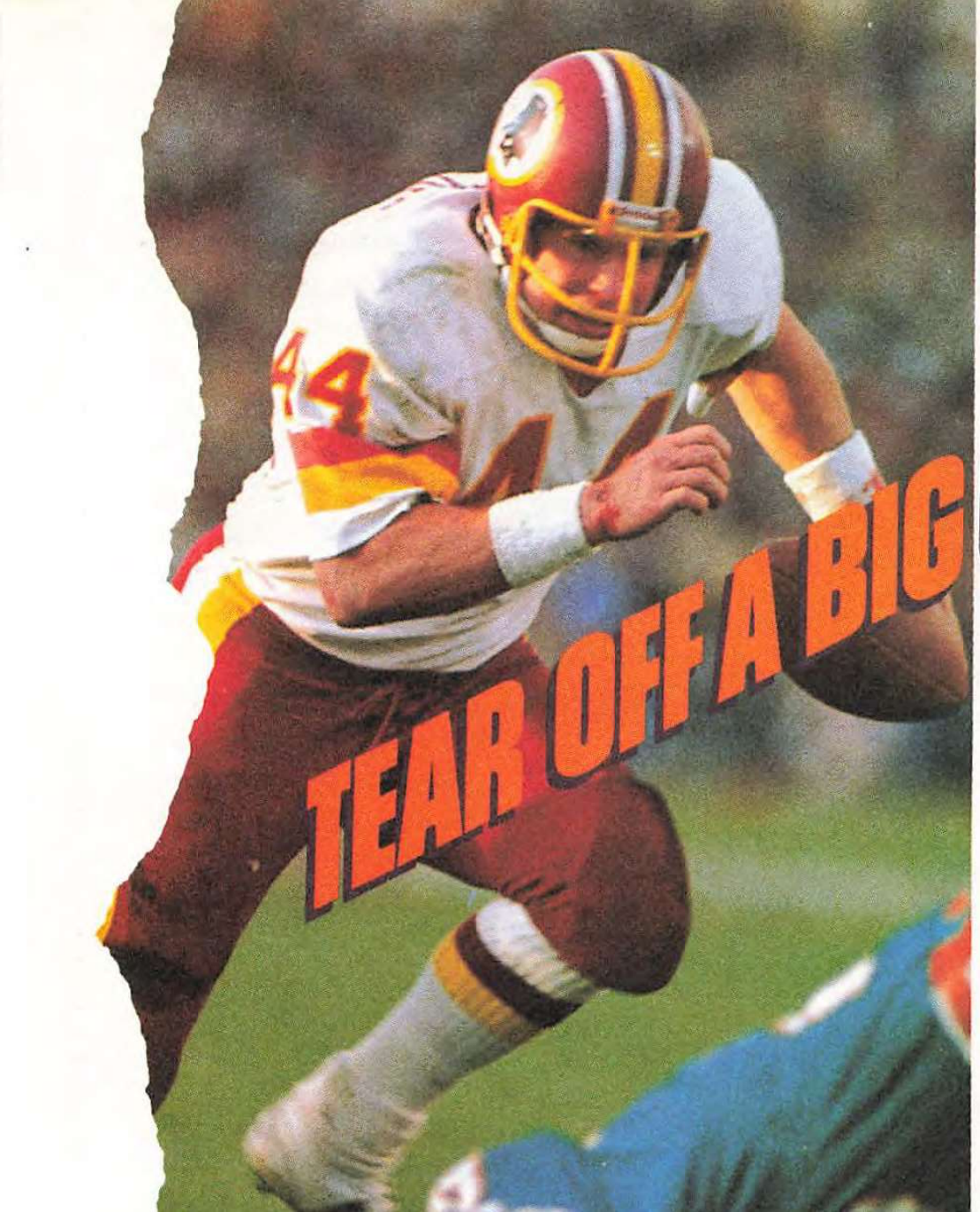
Western Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
San Francisco	10	6	0	.625	432	293
L.A. Rams	9	7	0	.562	361	344
New Orleans	8	8	0	.500	319	337
Atlanta	7	9	0	.438	370	389

Wild Card Game
L.A. Rams 24, Dallas 17

Divisional Playoffs
San Francisco 24, Detroit 23
Washington 51, L.A. Rams 7

Championship Game
Washington 24, San Francisco 21



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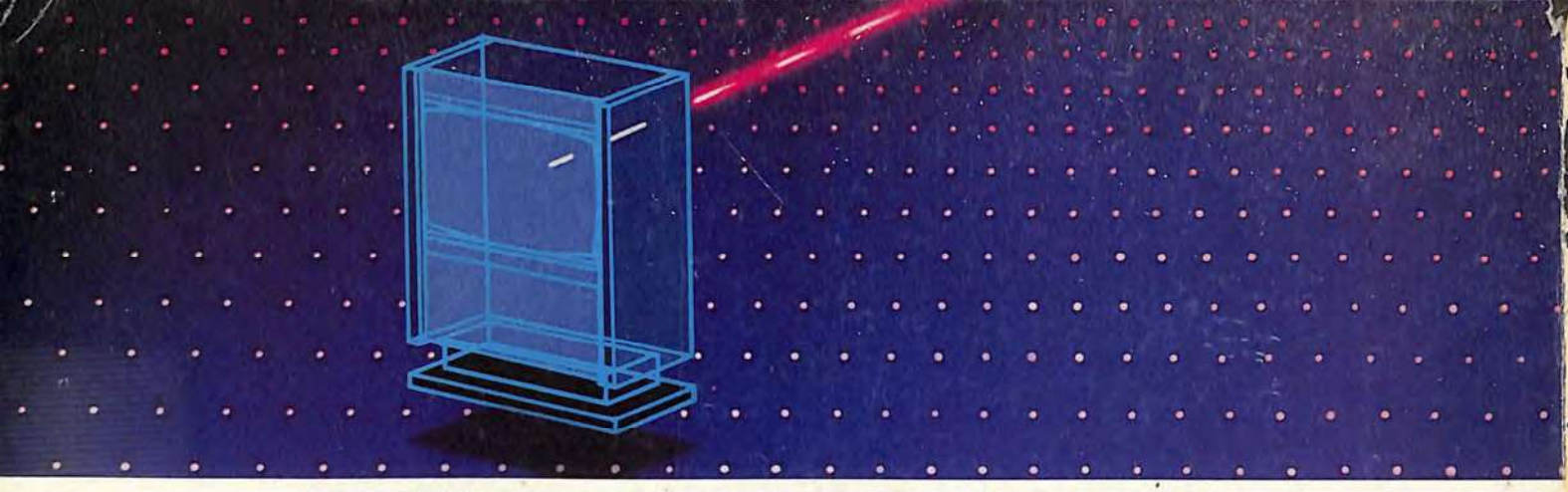

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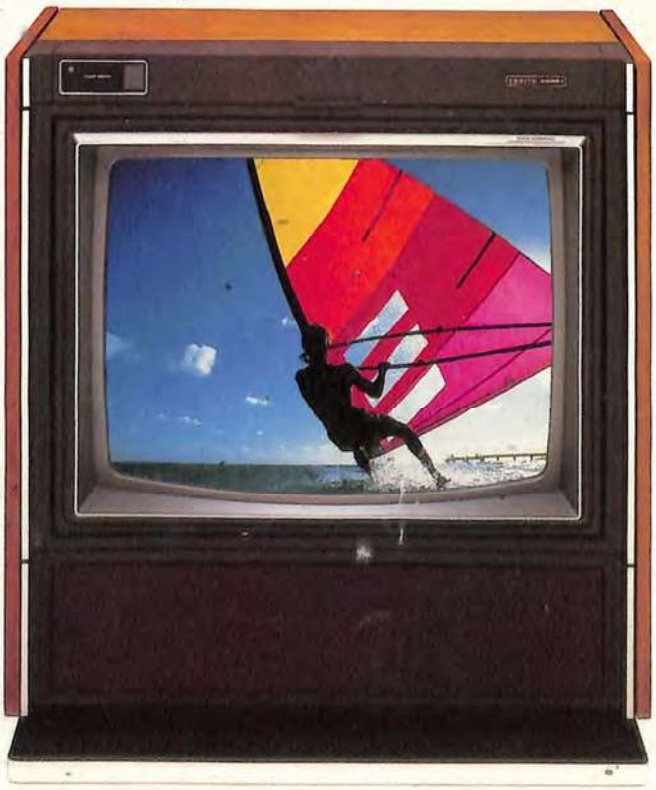

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